DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

India mostly with us, says Zelenskyy

Ukraine Prez hopes Delhi changes stand on Russian oil

Page 10

The long life of the Dasara fair

Page 12

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India drub Bangla to enter Asia Cup final

Spinners come to party after Abhishek's blistering 75

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Nation

MiG–21 fighter jets set to retire from IAF tomorrow

P.8

Nation

Set up portal to trace missing children: SC

P.8

Nation

Man held for 'aiding' Pahalgam attackers P.8

State

Draft rules on liquor licence auction P.3

UNREST IN MOUNTAINS

- Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk launches a 35-day hunger strike on Sept 10
- Health condition of two of his supporters deteriorates during hunger strike
- Upset over the news, hundreds of youths flood Leh streets, accusing the Centre of "denying Ladakh its rights"
- Protesters attempt to storm the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) office; several vehicles set ablaze; local BJP office vandalised

At least 4 dead as Ladakh burns over statehood

Activist Wangchuk calls off hunger strike; curfew imposed

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

At least four people were killed and 80 others, including 40 police personnel, injured on Wednesday as protests for statehood and constitutional safeguards descended into violent clashes in Leh district of Union Territory of Ladakh—a region that is usually free of such scenes.

Some people claimed it was a 'Gen Z' protest, while the BJP slammed the Congress for the chaos that prompted the local administration to impose a curfew.

The Ladakh Apex Body, along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been demanding full-fledged statehood and inclusion of Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule to safeguard its fragile ecosystem, land and jobs.

SCAN
LEH PROTESTS EXPLAINED

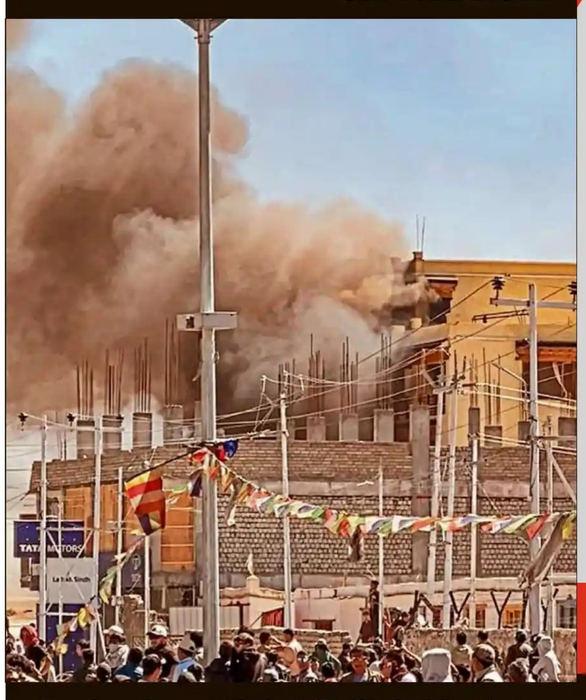
Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who is part of the LBA, had launched a 35-day hunger strike on Sept 10. According to reports, the violence erupted after the health condition of two of his supporters deteriorated during the hunger strike. Hundreds of youths flooded the streets of Leh, accusing the Centre of "denying Ladakh its rights"; violence ensued.

In videos shared on social media, protesters could be seen attempting to storm the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) office but were blocked by police. As tempers rose, demonstrators pelted the LAHDC building and security personnel with stones.

Several vehicles, including a CRPF van, were set ablaze, while another group vandalised the BJP office, accusing the party of reneging on promises made when Ladakh was granted UT status. Police baton-charged and fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

▸ Ladakh, Page 3B

ON THE BOIL



People gather outside the BJP office building that was set on fire in Leh, Ladakh, on Wednesday. PTI

1947-2019
Ladakh part of the state of J&K

August 2019
Article 370 abrogated, 2 UTs, J&K and Ladakh, created

2021
LAB and KDA demand restoration of statehood, cultural, linguistic and land rights safeguards under the 6th Schedule

Jan 2023
MHA constitutes a committee

Oct 2024
Activist Sonam Wangchuk marches to Delhi

May 27, 2025
LAB and KDA joint leadership meets committee

June 2025
Centre promulgates ordinance, implements 85% reservations for locals

Sept 10, 2025
15 LAB activists and Wangchuk go on a hunger strike

Sept 21, 2025
Centre invites LAB and KDA to Delhi for talks on Oct 6

Centre blames Wangchuk

The Centre put the blame on climate activist Sonam Wangchuk for the violence in Ladakh, claiming that he was misleading people through "provocative mention" of Arab Spring-style protest and "references to Gen Z protests in Nepal". Page 5

His fiction spanned myth, philosophy, history

LAXMI CHANDRASHEKAR

S L Bhyrappa
1931-2025

S L Bhyrappa's death on Wednesday marks the end of an era in Kannada literature.

He was one of the most prolific and widely read, debated and translated writers in India.

Bhyrappa had extensive knowledge of Eastern and Western philosophies, and his novels are deeply rooted in Indian, and more specifically Hindu, philosophy.

His range of topics is nothing short of amazing, and novels bear evidence to his copious reading and extensive travel.

His novels, such as 'Parva', 'Vamshavruksha' and 'Grihabhanga', are bestsellers in many Indian languages, and he enjoys a large following of educated, middle class readers.

Bhyrappa was already a big name in Kannada literature by the time he started teaching philosophy at the Regional College of English in Mysuru in 1972 (till 1991). Some of his students say his classes were dry, though he had plenty to give. But if students met him in his room, he was happy to speak about the research he was involved in for one of his most ambitious novels, 'Parva' (1979).

He was more than happy to share his findings, and show photographs of the site of the Kurukshetra war. He believed that the Mahabharata was about a war between two dominant tribes. His understanding of sociology and history made for fascinating narratives. He told his students, for example, that Draupadi belonged to a polyandrous tribe, and could therefore have five husbands.

I tried reading some of his novels as an immature, high school girl, and the long debates and philosophical exhortations in them left me unimpressed. But I liked 'Parva' for its rational, sociological approach to the epic.

Speaking about his autobiographical novel, 'Grihabhanga', Bhyrappa would recall his difficult childhood in a backward village. He is at his best when he lets his characters live their lives, as he does in 'Grihabhanga', rather than engage in philosophical debates.

Acting in the television serial 'Grihabhanga' directed by Girish Kasaravalli, has been one of my most memorable experiences. I was chosen to play a major role in it because, in real life, I spoke the dialect of Bhyrappa's character.

▸ Bhyrappa, Page 3B
Doyen departs, Page 4

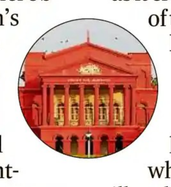
HC rejects X plea, says social media needs regulation

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

Unregulated speech under the guise of liberty becomes a licence to lawlessness, said the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday, as it dismissed a petition by X Corporation that had challenged the Centre's powers to issue information blocking orders under the IT Act.

> The content on social media needs to be regulated, and its regulation is a must, more so in cases of offences against women in particular, failing which the right to dignity as ordained in the Constitution gets railroaded
> **Justice M Nagaprasanna**

Rejecting the microblogging platform's arguments, Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that regulation of information is neither novel nor unique and pointed out that it is subject to a regulatory regime in the US, the birthplace of X.



"Under the 'Take It Down Act' of the United States, it chooses to follow the said Act as it criminalises the violation of the orders of take down. But the same petitioner refuses to follow the same in the shores of this nation of similar take-down orders which are founded upon illegality. This is sans countenance," Justice Nagaprasanna said while reading the summary of the judgment.

In its petition, X Corp contended that section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act does not authorise the government to issue information blocking orders in circumvention of section 69A, the Blocking Rules and the Apex Court decision in Shreya Singhal case.

The petitioner stated that in the Shreya Singhal case, the Apex Court had held that section 69A is the only procedure to issue blocking orders because it is a narrowly drawn provision with several safeguards.

The petitioner had also sought a direction to authorities to restrain them from taking coercive action against its representatives, employees or officers, for not joining the Sahyog portal created by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

▸ HC, Page 3B

Cabinet nod for Rs 69k-cr package for maritime sector

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 69,725-crore package to strengthen the domestic shipbuilding and maritime sector.

The initiatives include setting up of a Maritime Development Fund (MDF) with a corpus of Rs 25,000 crore. It will comprise Rs 20,000 crore Maritime Investment Fund (MIF) and Rs 5,000 crore as Interest Incentivisation Fund.

Another component of the package is the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) with an outlay of Rs 19,989 crore.

Details on Page 11
Nod for 10k med seats, P9

Voter deletion: EC rolls out OTP system to prevent misuse

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission has rolled out an e-verification procedure to ensure that the provision to seek deletion of names from voters' list is not misused.

Those seeking removal of names or claiming objection to inclusion of names in the electoral roll will get an OTP on their registered mobile phones.

"There could be cases where a person seeking removal of a name gives someone else's name or phone number while filing objection. This added feature will present such a misuse," an official explained.

Details on Page 8

CENSUS GLITCHES

Enumerators had to go to great lengths to conduct the caste census on Wednesday. With network issues continuing to dog the process, one enumerator at Mirakhal village in Hulasur taluk of Bidar district had to clamber up a neem tree to access the mobile network to open the app. The only network he got was Maharashtra's, which he lost after he climbed down. Another enumerator's risky ascent to the top of a water tank in the same taluk proved futile. DH PHOTOS

BJP treats Nitish as a liability: Kharge blasts Bihar CM

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

> The governance in Bihar is on a vacation as the BJP has 'mentally retired' Nitish and wants to grab power in the name of vote theft.
> **Mallikarjun Kharge,** Congress president

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that governance in Bihar has gone for a toss as the BJP has "mentally retired" Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and treats the JD (U) strongman as a "liability".

Kharge was chairing the first Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Patna since Independence.

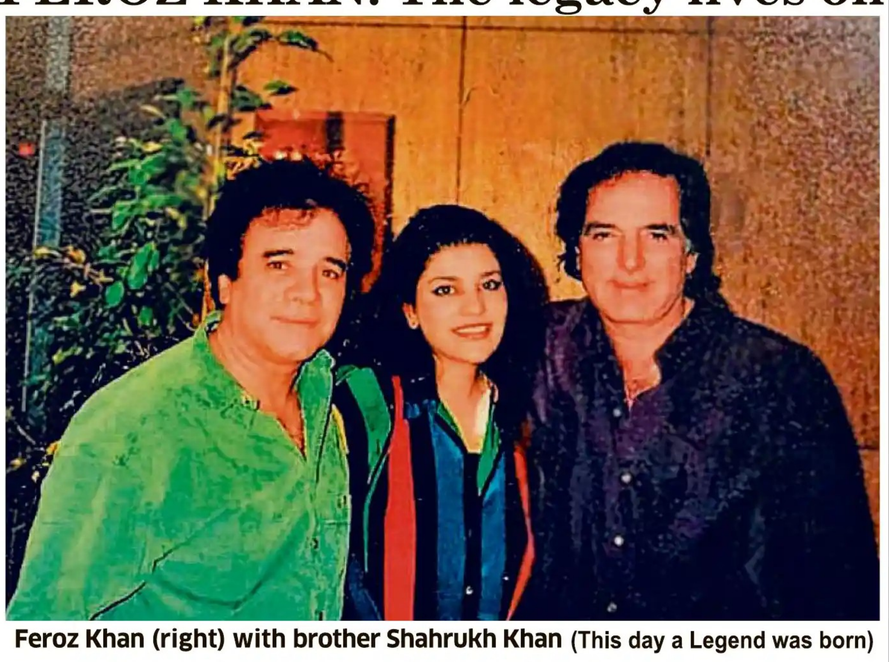
"The governance in Bihar is on a vacation as the BJP has 'mentally retired' Nitish and wants to grab power in the name of vote theft. But Rahul Gandhi, who embarked on a Voter Adhikar Yatra and made people of Bihar aware of their rights, will not allow 'vote theft' any more in Bihar as it had happened earlier in Maharashtra and Haryana," he said.

The last CWC meet here was held in 1940 and was attended by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru.

▸ Kharge, Page 3B

Advertorial

FEROZ KHAN: The legacy lives on



Feroz Khan (right) with brother Shahrukh Khan (This day a Legend was born)

Feroz Khan, an iconic figure in Indian cinema, left an indelible mark on Bollywood through his multi-faceted talent as an actor, film editor, producer and director. Born in a family with a deep connection to the industry, Khan received his education at Bishop Cotton Boys' School and St Germain High School in Bengaluru, before venturing into the world of cinema.

All hailing from Bengaluru, brothers SHAHRUKH KHAN, Sameer Khan, Akber Khan, Sanjay Khan, and sister Dilshad Khan, and family formed a supportive network around him.

Feroz Khan's cinematic journey was distinguished by his portrayal of characters infused with a captivating blend of charm, confidence and style. He epitomised the quintessential Bollywood hero, bringing a unique Wild West vibe to the screen with his signature leather boots, hat, cigar and swagger. Throughout his illustrious career spanning over 60 films, he was known not only for his acting prowess but also for his innate fashion sense, which made him a style icon of the 1970s and 80s.

Fans were enamoured by Feroz Khan's charismatic presence on screen, drawn to his good looks, undeniable talent and unparalleled charm. His performances captivated audiences, leaving a lasting impression on the collective memory of Hindi cinema enthusiasts.

Beyond his on-screen persona, Feroz Khan's contributions extended to directing and producing, where he showcased his creative vision and commitment to storytelling.

Feroz Khan's legacy continues to resonate within the industry and among his admirers. His enduring influence serves as a testament to his enduring impact on Bollywood. Even today, his cinematic achievements, combined with his charisma, are celebrated, ensuring that he remains eternally cherished and remembered as a beloved icon of Indian cinema.

INTERSTATE MISSION

Decoy op throws light on prenatal sex determination racket

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a first for the Karnataka health department, a team of officials conducted an interstate decoy operation with the help of their Andhra Pradesh counterparts and unearthed a racket involved in prenatal sex determination.

After learning that a pregnant woman and her husband from Mandya had visited Guntakal, Andhra Pradesh, to know the sex of the foetus, officials in the health department launched the decoy operation using the same couple.

A team led by Dr Vivek Dorai, state nodal officer, Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT), conducted the operation in the neighbouring state.

How it came to light

- Asha workers on routine visit find a Mandya woman not taking meds
- She and her husband reveal they got the sex of foetus tested in Guntakal
- Asha workers inform officials
- Health officials plan decoy op with AP counterparts

The existence of the racket came to light when Asha workers, who were on a routine check of pregnant women in Malavalli, observed that one of the pregnant women was growing weak. When asked, she told them that she was having a girl child and hence, she stopped taking her medications.

The woman and her husband further told the Asha workers that they had got a contact from an unnamed person who helped them determine the sex of the foetus.

The Asha workers passed on this information to higher officials. Subsequently, Dr Dorai planned the decoy operation in coordination with his AP counterpart Dr KVNS Anil Kumar.

As part of the operation, the Mandya couple was asked to contact the racket again. The officials gave the couple Rs 9,000 in cash after marking the serial number of the notes.

The couple got in touch with the same agent and told her that they wanted to conduct the test once more. The agent took Rs 7,500 from the couple and made arrangements with a medical officer to conduct the sex determination test.

Subsequently, the agent informed the couple that the foetus was of a girl and also revealed that a medical termination of pregnancy could be conducted by one Dr Baby, a registered medical practitioner, in Guntakal itself. The agent also provided the couple a contact number for this purpose.

Later, the officials checked the cash in the hands of the agent and confirmed that she had the currency with the pre-recorded serial numbers.

They have handed over all the information to Andhra Pradesh officials to conduct further inquiries.

City eateries slip in service charges despite court order

Increase menu prices so they do it 'legally'

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Restaurants, hotels and bars in the city have continued to discreetly slip in service charges, despite a Delhi High Court order upholding the Central Consumer Protection Authority's guidelines that service charges or State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) must be voluntary.

They incorporate the service charge amount into their menu prices, fooling customers into believing that they are not charging them for service in the bill, amid claims by many restaurants and hotels that boast about customers "not having to pay service charge".

Restaurants consider many factors in deciding the price of a dish or drink, such as ingredients, labour, rent, atmosphere, and profit margin. This is where they slip in the service charge. All of them follow their own pricing formulas.

It started after customers started to opt against paying the 2.5% SGST on their bills.

Camouflaging service charge

A restro-bar in Whitefield hides the service charge in its menu. "Because our prices are high, many people opt out of paying the optional service charge. So, when we camouflage it in this fashion, people spend more because they think they are saving on service charge," the consulting chef of the restaurant told *DH*.

Most of the time, the service charge is divided among employees of the restaurant as a substitute for tips.

A popular restaurant on MG Road recently raised its menu prices after the new GST reformation, which reduced GST on food from 18% to 5%.

"We used to charge 10% on the final bill as service charge, but many people refused to pay it, so we have now decided to increase our menu prices by 15% to make up the difference."

Most of the time, the service charge is divided among employees of the restaurant as a substitute for tips.

While this may seem illegal, it is actually a legal loophole restaurants follow.

"If they decide to collect the SGST in the guise of increasing the MRP, that will come under valuation of the restaurant, and is not illegal," said Razik Fareed, Joint Commissioner, Central GST Department, Bengaluru.

"While it is difficult for us to know how much service charge is collected by a restaurant, at the end of the day if a restaurant collects SGST, they will be taxed on it."

"When the GST was first set up, an anti-profiteering body was set up to monitor if any benefit was rolled out in tax reduction to businesses."

All big restaurant chains had started changing their MRP and selling food at a higher value on a lower tax slab to make their profit margins larger.

GOMBE GLOW

The intricate display of dolls for 'Gombe Habba' brings the vibrant spirit of Dasara to life, showcasing a deep connection to tradition. This arrangement is from a house in RR Nagar on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Coach booked for abusing, duping student's mother

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Konanakunte police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against a cricket coach and physical education teacher for allegedly sexually harassing and defrauding the mother of a student.

The suspect, Abey V Mathew, is a native of Kerala and worked at Carmel Academy School on Bannerghatta Road, where he also ran a cricket academy.

The complaint was filed on Tuesday by a 33-year-old woman, who alleged that Mathew presented himself as a reputable coach and social worker and sexually exploited her by promising to marry her.

According to the FIR, the complainant alleged that Mathew targeted single mothers and women associated with his cricket academy and the school.

The complainant, a divorced mother of a 10-year-old girl, stated she had first met Mathew while visiting her daughter's school.

At a time when she was facing personal and financial difficulties, she approached Mathew for a small loan.

He allegedly responded by claiming to have a strong "police background" and a high-ranking position within the Aam Aadmi Party, promising to assist her. He then gained her trust by helping her find a house.

The complainant alleged that after she got divorced in September 2024, Mathew began a physical relationship with her, using repeated promises of marriage to overcome her hesitation.

He convinced her to live with him and had a lawyer draft a document to give the relationship a false sense of legitimacy.

The complaint further stated that the relationship resulted in a pregnancy in January 2025, which was followed by a natural abortion.

When she confronted Mathew about his promises of marriage, he threatened to kill her, stole her mobile phone and personal belongings, and went into hiding.

The police have taken up the investigation. Mathew is absconding.

An official at the Konanakunte police station confirmed that an FIR has been registered and investigation is underway.

CS sets 90-day action plan to complete unfinished projects

PWD engineers may be roped in to check road work quality

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on Wednesday reportedly asked the Public Works Department (PWD) to inspect the ongoing pothole-filling work amid complaints that contractors are using substandard materials and processes.

She also proposed changes to the e-procurement portal to track the implementation of tendered projects until they are billed.

The decisions were taken at a multi-departmental meeting in the Vidhana Soudha, attended by senior IAS and IPS officers, Biocon CMD Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, and urban expert RK Mishra.

It was decided that corporation superintendent engineers will monitor the quality of roadworks, including material procurement, while PWD engineers will share independent feedback.

Speaking to reporters, Mishra said the government has drawn up a 90-day action plan to finish pending works worth Rs 694 crore, including road asphalting, development of 12 high-density corridors, and white-topping.

"We shared concerns about the bad quality of tar sourced from third-party suppliers without procuring it directly from standard entities such as the MRPL," he said.

Mishra welcomed the creation of the five corporations, saying commissioners are now able to take quicker decisions. "One commissioner was not able to handle the entire city. Now, things are moving fast, but major thrust must be given for quality, timeliness, and accountability," he said.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who has been critical of garbage management and road conditions, said authorities had promised to complete some critical projects in a time-bound manner.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh along with senior officials discuss ways to tackle the city's infrastructure issues at a meeting in the Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday.

Congestion tax on ORR

At the meeting, urban expert RK Mishra suggested introducing congestion charges on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to discourage single-occupant cars. Later, he said it was not enough to add new roads, but the government must also focus on demand management.

"Bengaluru is adding one lakh vehicles every month. About 82% of them are two-wheelers. In places such as London and Singapore, congestion charges are already in place. We should emulate this on the Outer Ring Road so that the tech parks promote carpooling among employees," he said.

A senior official said the proposal was discussed, but is only at the idea stage.

"It is a proposal that the government will consider seriously at the moment," he said.

Corporations push road repair drive despite relentless rains

BENGALURU, DHNS: Under pressure to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's October 31 deadline, Bengaluru's five new corporations have stepped up pothole-filling works across the city.

Officials aim to ensure "motorable roads" within a month.

On Wednesday, pothole-filling was carried out on Gear School Road, Balagere, Veerannapalya, Nagaenahalli Dinne Main Road, Chamarajpet, Vasanth Nagar, Mathikere, Mysuru Road, Begur, and Uttarahalli Main Road. Critics said that the temporary fixes may not last long.

In the Bengaluru City Central Corporation, engineers resurfaced stretches such as St John's Church Road, KR Circle, Race Course Road, Chalukya Circle, Mission Road, Marigowda Road, and JC Road.

The works were possible as the now-dissolved BBMP had already completed tendering formalities under the Rs 694-crore action plan.

Corporations have a long list of pending stretches to repair in the coming month, including Hosa Road, Borewell Road, Holiday Village Road in Kanakapura, Varthur–Panathur Road, Somsundarpalya Road, stretches around Cubbon Park, Harlur–Kudlu Road, Sarjapur Road, Babusapalya Road, and service roads of the Outer Ring Road.

Some corporations are waiting for the rains to stop, while others said the damaged stretches need more than asphalting and require comprehensive repairs, including long-neglected side drains.

Two-wheeler riders struggle with deep potholes on the Outer Ring Road near FTI Circle. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH HG

Gas distribution facility at B'luru Airport City

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Airport City Limited has signed an agreement with GAIL Gas Limited, a subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited, to set up a city gas distribution facility at Bengaluru Airport City.

The facility, aimed at building a greener energy ecosystem and improving last-mile connectivity for vehicles and logistics fleets at the Kempegowda International Airport, will include a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station, Piped Natural Gas (PNG) installations, and other clean energy solutions.

The station will also have non-fuel retail and convenience outlets for public use, Bengaluru Airport City Limited said in a press note.

"The establishment of the CNG station within Bengaluru Airport City will greatly benefit thousands of vehicles, providing convenient access to CNG refuelling for commuters travelling to and from the airport," said Goutom Chakraborty, Chief Executive Officer, GAIL Gas Limited.

Awards for KSRTC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said it had won multiple awards for various initiatives.

It won three 'Unlocked Awards' in the following categories: Best HR Management-Introduction of Sarige Suraksha Scheme; Best New Product-Introduction of Ashwamedha Classic Buses; Best Use of Technology-Introduction of AWATAR with Dynamic UPI.

It won two mCUBE awards for: Best content in a video marketing campaign-Introduction of Ambaari Utsav buses by KSRTC; and Best Product placement strategy-Introduction of refurbishing Airavat Club Class buses.

The Unlocked and mCUBE awards were presented in Gurugram on September 19.

The KSRTC was also presented with SKOCH Award 2025 in New Delhi on September 20 for the implementation of the HRMS software.

Man held for two-wheeler, gas cylinder thefts; police recover goods worth Rs 8.5 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Varthur police have arrested a 33-year-old man for a series of two-wheeler and gas cylinder thefts, recovering stolen goods worth Rs 8.5 lakh.

The arrest has helped detect five theft cases across the city.

The suspect, Muniraju, was caught on September 20 near Halasahalli Junction with a stolen two-wheeler and two gas cylinders. His arrest followed a complaint filed on September 7 by a Gunjur resident, who reported his two-wheeler missing.

Investigations revealed that Muniraju had stolen several vehicles and gas cylinders from different parts of the city. The police said he had parked the two-wheelers on a vacant plot behind an apartment complex in Gunjur and sold the cylinders to acquaintances.

The goods seized from the suspects.

Muniraju targeted cylinders left unsecured in apartment stairwells, balconies, backyards, and outside restaurants. The police said he sold the stolen cylinders on the black market.

Between September 20 and 22, the police recovered 10 more two-wheelers and 18 gas cylinders.

Muniraju was produced before the court on September 20 and remanded to three days of police custody. He was later sent to judicial custody on September 22.

The police said efforts are on to trace the owners of six two-wheelers and 20 gas cylinders that remain unclaimed.

B-SMILE extends deadline for tunnel road tenders by 3 weeks

BENGALURU, DHNS: For the second time, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) has extended the deadline to submit bids for the Hebbal–Central Silk Board twin tunnel road project.

The revised deadline has now been pushed to October 15.

B-SMILE had floated tenders in July this year for a six-lane underground road, totalling 16.74 km, divided into three packages.

The deadline was first fixed for September 2.

On the request of companies that attended the pre-bid meeting, it was revised to September 23 and has now been further extended to October 15.

Officials said the date was extended after bidders requested more time, as the project is technically challenging and financially complex, with private firms expected to bear 40% of the cost.

Although the government has projected the tunnel road as a solution to decongest traffic in Bengaluru, the project has faced criticism for prioritising personal vehicles and delaying the Namma Metro project proposed along the same alignment.

Man files complaint after wife demands Rs 2 cr, calls him impotent

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 35-year-old from Vijayanagar has lodged a police complaint against his wife and in-laws, alleging harassment and assault, and claimed they demanded Rs 2 crore by accusing him of being impotent.

Based on the complaint from Marenahalli resident Praveen KM, the Govindarajanagar police have registered an FIR against the woman, her parents and eight relatives.

Praveen said in his complaint that he had an arranged marriage with Chandana, 29, a resident of Tarikere, on May 5 this year, with both sides sharing wedding expenses. He claimed the reception costs in Bengaluru were borne by him.

He told the police that he was unable to consummate the marriage in the first few days due to physical and mental stress. However, his wife mocked and humiliated him, called him impotent and defamed him within her family. She later complained to his mother, after which her relatives barged into his Bengaluru house and humiliated him further.

Praveen told the police that doctors declared him fit for conjugal relations following a medical examination, noting that he had developed performance anxiety caused by physical and mental stress.

On June 5, however, a group of 15-20 people from Chandana's family stormed into Praveen's house and allegedly demanded that he transfer Rs 2 crore worth of immovable assets in her name. She later left his house.

On August 17, Praveen alleged, Chandana and her family members broke into his house, ransacked valuables and attacked him with lethal weapons. They also slept outside his house.

He said he had to be hospitalised due to the assault. He has submitted CCTV footage and medical documents to the police.

Probe into two house burglaries helps cops crack 9 other cases

BENGALURU, DHNS: Investigating two house burglaries, the Kadugodi police have arrested three men and recovered gold ornaments worth over Rs 14 lakh.

The arrests helped the police solve nine other burglaries.

In his police complaint, a resident of Kodigehalli stated that on August 30, after returning home from Ganesha puja, he found the front door broken and gold ornaments, including a 50-gram mangalsutra, two bangles and a pair of earrings, stolen from a cupboard.

Following an investigation, the police arrested Manjunath, 38, from his residence in KR Puram on September 10. The officers recovered 58 grams of gold ornaments, worth Rs 5.8 lakh, from him. Manjunath was remanded to judicial custody by the court on September 11.

In a separate incident, a complainant from Patalamma Layout in Kadugodi reported a burglary on August 26, stating that 27 grams of gold ornaments had been stolen from their home while they were at work.

A team of police officers launched an investigation and arrested Srinivas, 24, on September 16 from Sorahunase. During interrogation, he reportedly confessed to the burglary and also implicated an accomplice, who was arrested the same day in Madhuranagar, Varthur.

The duo further revealed that they had given the stolen items to a friend. Based on their information, the police recovered a total of 82.5 grams of gold ornaments, worth Rs 8.25 lakh, from the friend's possession on September 17.

The suspects were produced before court on September 17.

Four-member gang held for robbery at gunpoint in Jalahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Peenya police have arrested four men for allegedly luring a passenger into a car, threatening him with a pistol, and robbing him of cash and mobile phones.

The arrests led to the recovery of property worth Rs 4 lakh, including a car and the weapon used in the crime.

The case surfaced on August 18 when the victim, a resident of Vijayanagar district, lodged a complaint at the Peenya police station.

He said that on the night of August 14, while waiting at the Jalahalli bus stand to travel to Vijayanagar, three men in a car offered him a ride. After he boarded, they drove towards Dobbspet in Nelamangala, brandished a pistol, threatened him, and robbed him of Rs 5,000 and two mobile phones.

The pistol used by the suspects.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case of robbery and launched an investigation.

Using intelligence inputs, exploring multiple angles, and verifying CCTV footage, the police on August 25 arrested three suspects — Kanakamurthy, 25, Kiran, 29, and Srikanth, 22 — in Doddanekundi, Marathahalli. The car used in the crime was also seized.

Upon searching the vehicle, the police recovered the pistol used in the crime and the two stolen mobile phones. Three phones belonging to the suspects were also seized.

Ex-jail acquaintance

During interrogation, the suspects revealed that the pistol had been supplied by a former jail acquaintance. Acting on this lead, the police arrested the fourth suspect — Sikandar Malangsab Sheikh, 38, — from Horti village in Vijayapura district on September 10.

The police said the four men, who worked as labourers in a private lift material assembling company in Bengaluru, have prior cases of atrocity and affray against them. The investigation is ongoing to determine how Sheikh procured the firearm.

All four suspects are in judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Exhibition: Presentation of Dasara dolls; Organised by Dhatu Creative; Mandala Cultural Centre, Kanakapura Road; 10.30 am.

Engineers' Day Celebrations: Organised by BWSSB; Ramprasat Manohar V to preside; Auditorium, BWSSB office, KG Road; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Yakshagana performance: 'Tyaga Thaponidhi Dhadhichi'; Organised by Yuvaka Sangha as a part of Yuva Dasara; Jayanagar 4th Block; 5.45 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	69%
Sunset (Sep 25)	6:15 pm
Sunrise (Sep 26)	6:09 am
Moonrise	7:54 am
Moonset	7:46 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

And...sold! Govt drafts rules to auction liquor licences

Hopes to rake in Rs 500 crore by auctioning defunct CL-2, CL-9 licences

BENGALURU, DHNS

The finance department has issued draft rules on auctioning defunct excise licences with which the Siddaramaiah administration hopes to rake in around Rs 500 crore amid fiscal stress.

To mobilise additional resources, the government wants to auction defunct CL-2 (retail liquor shop) and CL-9 (bar & restaurant) licences. Authorities are also planning to auction unused CL-11(C) licences, which are given to retail outlets run by the Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL).

There are 579 such licenses that will go under the hammer, according to Excise Minister R B Timmapur's office.

Licences will be auctioned online and awarded to those who make the highest bid, the draft rules say.

Karnataka has not issued new CL-2 and CL-9 licences since 1992, making them prized possessions. There are 3,995 CL-2 and 3,637 CL-9 licences, which are renewed annually.

Due to the freeze on new CL-2 and CL-9 licences, the existing permits are sold at huge prices every year, running into a few crores, including bribes. The government, however, gets only the annual fees for these licences, which ranges from Rs 4-6 lakh for CL-2 and Rs 4-7.5 lakh for CL-9.

'Rs 500 crore expected'

"In the Bengaluru market, a licence is sold for as high as Rs 3.8 crore," Chief Minister's Economic Advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi told *DH*. "In the auction, we expect up to Rs 3 crore per licence. Outside Bengaluru, a licence may fetch up to Rs 1 crore," he said. "We can expect around Rs 500 crore from the auction."

According to the draft rules, two new categories will be created for the auctioned licences - CL-2A and CL-9A.

The proposed rules also allow existing or valid licences to be transferred to the legal heirs of holders in the event of their death.

The government's reliance on excise revenue is growing every year. In 2024-25, the government collected Rs 35,783.54 crore in excise revenue.

In the current fiscal, the government's target is Rs 40,000 crore. Up to August, the excise revenue collection stood at Rs 16,358 crore.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced in the 2025-26 Budget the allotment of "unused liquor licenses through a transparent electronic auction" which he said would "aid in additional resource mobilisation to the state".

Income tax raids on pvt varsity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Income tax officials on Wednesday raided the premises linked to a private university in Bengaluru and outside Karnataka.

The operation was initiated following allegations of tax evasion and a disproportionate increase in assets compared to declared income.

The raids began at 6 am and were simultaneously conducted at multiple campuses in southern Bengaluru and Andhra Pradesh, sources said.

Officials are probing over the allegations that the group's assets are far in excess of its reported income, and are verifying financial records.

They are also verifying expenditures made in the name of college development, furniture purchases and the collection of student fees, the sources added.

The probe is also focused on student admissions.

Officials are seeking to verify details regarding the number of students admitted through both management and government quotas.

Further, the number of college employees is also under scrutiny as part of the inquiry into the institution's financial practices, according to the sources.

Panel formed for 'C' category temples

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government has constituted a vision group to oversee development of 'C' category temples, 34,165 across state, under the Muzrai dept. The panel has educationist K E Radhakrishna, former IPS officer K C Ramamurthy, former lawmaker Shakuntala Shetty, Dr Mahantesh Biradar (Vijayapura), KAS officer Dr Sripad S B, Srinivas P C (B'luru) and Yathiraj Sampath Kumaran S N (Mysuru).

'Robotics and AI edu needed at govt schools'

BENGALURU, DHNS: National Best Teacher awardee from Mysore K S Madhusudhan opined that children in government schools needed Robotics and Artificial Intelligence-based education from the primary level to dream about profession in medical and technical fields.

He was speaking at the Teachers Day event organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) in the city on Wednesday.

"Most doctors in our previous generation studied at government schools, but now a majority are from private schools. If there are necessary facilities at government schools even the children in government schools can pursue medical and engineering education by dreaming of the same from an early age," Madhusudhan stated.

Innovative use of technology

Madhusudhan received national teachers award recently for his innovative use of technology, particularly establishing the 'M Lounge Studio' at the Government Higher Primary School Hinkal in Mysuru, where he is working.

Addressing the event, RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr Bhagawan B C spoke about the university's plan to establish Placement cell. "Through the centralised placement cell we are planning to provide career opportunities for all our students, including medical and dental graduates. We are taking assistance from our alumni for this," the vice-chancellor added.

Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharan Prakash Patil felicitated the teachers during the event.

BJP leaders fill potholes to highlight poor condition of Bengaluru roads

Will citizens be asked to leave the city as well, Ashoka asks D K Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP leaders R Ashok and Ravi Subrahmanya fill a pothole on a road near Kamakya theatre in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
DH PHOTO

R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leaders of Opposition in the Assembly and Council respectively, led the BJP's charge against the state government during the agitation to protest poor roads in Bengaluru and across the state.

In a symbolic jibe at the Congress government, Ashoka participated in a pothole-filling exercise at Kamakya Circle in Bengaluru, which is part his Assembly constituency. Armed with a spade and basin-like container (mankri), Ashoka proceeded to fill potholes on the road.

"Are these even roads? Are they roads with potholes or potholes with roads," asked Ashoka.

Roads across the state had become 'death traps', said Ashoka, lamenting the loss of lives in accidents on pothole-riddled roads. Ashoka said citizens must themselves undertake the task of filling potholes, and not wait for the government to do it.

Dubbing the Congress regime in the state a 'pauper government', Ashoka said, "Funds to the tune of Rs 5,000 crore have been allocated for fixing the roads. But the funds are being misappropriated. Potholes are so poorly fixed that they reappear on the roads if it rains once."

Responding to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's remark about IT companies, Ashoka asked, "Will citizens be asked to leave Bengaluru just the way IT companies are being encouraged to leave?"

Underscoring Bengaluru's disproportionate contribution to the state's revenue – Rs 1 lakh crore – Ashoka urged the government to allocate Rs 10,000 crore for repairing the city's roads.

Dismissing the government's claims about potholes being filled every day, Ashoka said, "If that were true, more than 1.2 lakh potholes would have been filled in the past four months."

Narayanaswamy, meanwhile, filled the potholes in Sadashivanagar in Bengaluru. Replying to Shivakumar's jibe about pothole-riddled roads near the Prime Minister's residence, Narayanaswamy said, "Today, we have filled the pothole in front of your house. Come see it yourself."

Narayanaswamy also sought an account for the expenditure of Rs 1,100 crore that was allocated for repairing roads.

AISF demands UGC to withdraw draft syllabus

BENGALURU, DHNS: The All India Students Federation (AISF) has demanded that the University Grants Commission (UGC) immediately withdraw its draft syllabus.

The demand was raised at a roundtable discussion organised by the Federation in Bengaluru on Tuesday on "Anti-progressive UGC syllabus revision."

Progressive thinker B R Manjunath said, "UGC has the authority to frame curriculum frameworks, but not to design syllabi. That authority lies with the academic councils of individual universities. Hence, UGC's interference in this matter is condemnable."

He added that without any consultation with stakeholders, UGC has unilaterally drafted the syllabus.

"This is not conducive to knowledge acquisition. Ancient subjects like Kautilya's Arthashastra and Ram Rajya are being unnecessarily introduced. This has no benefit for the progress of modern global India."

Former vice-chancellor A Murageppa said governments have a responsibility to educate future generations about the country's history and the sacrifices made for independence.

He stressed that India's education system must be elevated by imparting scientific and intellectual learning within a secular and non-religious framework as envisioned by the Constitution.

"But the syllabus framed by UGC takes the country backward. Therefore, opposition to the proposed syllabus and the demand for modern education must be expressed everywhere," he said.

Cashless treatment of govt staff from Oct 1

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting October 1, government employees can avail cashless treatment at hospitals under the Arogya Sanjeevini scheme, according to a fresh order issued by the Siddaramaiah administration.

Under the scheme, the government will deduct from salary Rs 1,000 for Group 'A', Rs 500 for Group 'B', Rs 350 for Group 'C' and Rs 250 for Group 'D' employees.

The scheme will be implemented through the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST). Employees and their dependent family members will get covered under the scheme. Treatment will be made available to employees in over 500 private hospitals that are empaneled with the government.

State-run OTT to promote Kannada films: Panel formed

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government on Wednesday formed a panel to implement a government-run OTT platform to promote Kannada films.

During the 2025-26 budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced that "steps will be taken to create an OTT platform to promote Kannada films."

The panel has been constituted to obtain necessary information to prepare project outlines to create a streaming platform.

The panel will also conduct a comprehensive study and sanction the necessary grant to the government, according to a press statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

The Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Department will be the president of the panel.

The members include Mehboob Pasha, chairman of Kanteerava Studio Ltd; Sadhu Kokila, president of Karnataka Film Academy; K P Srikanth, film producer; Rockline Venkatesh, film producer/distributor; Duniya Vijay, actor; Ivan D'Silva, member of KCA; Deshadri H, member of KCA, and joint directors (Photography and Film Branch) and Registrar of KCA.

Similar initiative in Kerala

In March 2024, the Kerala government launched the first government-backed OTT space.

Called CSpace, the platform was developed by Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSTDC) and aims to promote Malayalam films with artistic and cultural value. It operates on a pay-per-view model.

Fifty percent of the revenue generated will be shared with the filmmakers.

KIIT
KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT)
Deemed to be University
(Established U/S 3 of UGC Act 1956), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

21ST ANNUAL CONVOCATION 2025

Date: 26th - 28th September, 2025 | Venue: KIIT Campus 3 (Kathajodi)

Graced by

Prof. Mohan Munasinghe
Nobel Laureate, Sri Lanka — 26th Sept. 2025

Justice Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf
Judge, International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague

Justice Dalveer Bhandari
Judge, International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague — 27th Sept. 2025

H.E. Ouided Bouchamaoui
Nobel Laureate, Tunisia — 28th Sept. 2025

This year, the KIIT Convocation will be held over three days from 26th - 28th September 2025, discipline-wise, to facilitate greater participation of students and parents.

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- Financial Literacy – NPS Vatsalya

- All entries should be based on the NPS tagline "NPS Zaruri Hai"
- Must use #NPSZaruriHai

SEGMENTS
Create Reel (upto 60 sec.) · Poster · AI Video (upto 60 sec.) · Calculator

LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING ENTRIES: 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

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New chiefs for 39 boards, corpn

▶ **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Congress has approved the appointment of 39 party leaders as chairpersons of various boards and corporations. Arun Patil will be chairman of the NWKRTC, Dharwad MLA Vinay Kulkarni's wife Shivleela will chairperson of the KUWSSB among others.

Caste survey continues apace across state; technical issues persist

84,180 households enumerated across state on Day 3

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Social and Educational Survey -- Caste Census -- made further progress on Wednesday, with 84,180 households (3.19 lakh people) being enumerated across the state, althougthe process was hobbled by network and server problems.

These numbers are based on the 4 pm report and are the cumulative figures for all three days. As many as 7,942 households (30,791 people) were enumerated in Haveri, which was the highest, followed by Belagavi (7,146 households and 26,494 people), Bagalkot (5,873 households and 23,593 people), Kalaburagi (5,526 households and 22,078 people) and Gadag (5,082 households and 18,892 people). Meanwhile, only 283 households were enumerated in Udupi.

Meanwhile, problems with the server continued to hamper the survey in Bidar, Kodagu, Davanagere and other districts.

In Mirakal village, Hulasur taluk in Bidar, weak signal strength reportedly prompted Govinda Maharaja — an enumerator and teacher—to climb a tree.

Atop the tree, he reportedly connected to Maharashtra's network, and struggled when he got down and restarted his survey.

Server issues were also reported in Madikeri in Kodagu, where enumerators complained that OTPs were not coming, and about the time it was taking at each home. Some enumerators met Kodagu Deputy Commissioner Venkat Raja and shared their issues.

In Davanagere, enumerators were put to some trouble when visiting a hose where multiple families resided.

In a house with the same RR number, several ration cards were found, leading to confusion.

"If a family has a BPL or Antyodaya card, the government facilities are more. In rural areas, children and elders have separate ration cards. The ration card is the basis for determining families. In villages, more families are being detected than the number of houses marked," an official said.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru about technical issues, Backward Classes Welfare Department Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said: "We will correct everything. No problem. We will complete the survey within the tentative date we have set. After speaking to department officials, I will share details about the survey with you (media)."

Around 150 unorganised workers and slum dwellers from across the city gathered at the office of the Commissioner of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, on Cunningham Road, on Wednesday.
PIC CREDIT: VINAY K SREENIVASA

Unorganised workers, slum dwellers protest deletion from BPL list

Aggrieved citizens stress importance of BPL card for slew of benefits

BENGALURU, DHNS

Around 150 unorganised workers and slum dwellers from across the city assembled at the office of the Commissioner of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department on Cunningham Road on Wednesday to protest the state government's decision cancelling their Below Poverty Line (BPL) status without a notice.

The group, mostly comprising women, informed the Commissioner that fair price shops in the city had started displaying lists comprising families whose BPL status would soon be changed to Above Poverty Line (APL) status.

"There has been a lot of confusion in this regard. The Union government has been exerting pressure on the state government to reduce the number of BPL card beneficiaries. And the Karnataka government has also stated that the current list of BPL card holders contains many ineligible beneficiaries. The union government has provided a list of names, the BPL status of whom is to be changed. While the Commissioner stated that the list would be verified before the families' status would be changed, that doesn't appear to be the reality on the ground," said advocate and citizen activist Vinay K Sreenivasa, adding that there appears to be much confusion on the parameters under which the list had been prepared, including an 'unscientific income limit' among other criteria.

In a letter submitted to Commissioner V V Jyotsna, the group specified the importance of the BPL card, which is used not only for daily ration but also for for medical purposes, pension and scholarships among other things.

The letter requested the government to facilitate the verification of families whose BPL status has been revoked and revise the criteria set by the government for BPL status by involving civic and social organisations.

The Commissioner asked the families who have been taken off the BPL list to file a complaint with the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.

Jyotsna did not respond to phone calls and messages seeking comment.

Exercise is census cloaked as survey, Union government tells high court

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Union government on Wednesday submitted before the Karnataka high court that the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, popularly known as caste survey, undertaken by Karnataka government was a census cloaked as a survey.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Arvind Kamath, appearing for the Union government, submitted that only a census conducted by the Centre provides secure and legitimate data processing.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi adjourned the hearing to Thursday on plea seeking interim order.

The bench is hearing the petitions filed by Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha and members of Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Lingayata Mahasabha, challenging the caste-based survey to review socio economic conditions. The petitions have sought an interim stay on the enumeration process, currently underway across the state.

During the hearing, ASG submitted that the Centre had already notified the commencement of census, single authoritative census under the Census Act which also entails enumeration of castes. He further stated that questions in the census were issued by gazette notification, while no such mandate exists in a state survey.

Earlier, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the state government, said a state survey cannot be stayed without pointing out any flaws in its design. He said that even in the Puttaswamy judgment, the Apex Court had recognized the state government's authority to collect data for welfare purposes.

Meanwhile, the division bench posed a question to the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission as to on what basis the number of castes and classification of castes was made.

Senior advocate Prof Ravivarma Kumar, appearing for the commission, said that the revision in the caste list was necessitated after receiving representations that certain castes were left out in the previous survey and hence the list was updated accordingly.

He further said that the houses and electricity boards were geo-tagged and the Aadhaar detail is used only to verify the name of the householder, to prevent duplication and also to exclude out-of-state residents.

High court junks Prajwal Revanna's plea seeking transfer of cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court on Wednesday refused to transfer to a different court the proceedings on charges of rape and sexual harassment pending before the special court for MP/MLAs against former Hasan MP Prajwal Revanna.

The petition was filed seeking transfer of the cases on allegations of bias against the presiding officer.

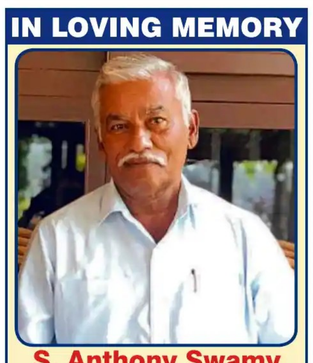
After perusing the records, Justice M I Arun said they indicate that the trial court intended to take the trial on a day-to-day basis. "In the process adjournments sought by the petitioner were frowned upon. The observations in the judgement may sound a bit harsh, but the same cannot be construed as bias on part of the presiding officer. Admittedly, the petitioner has tried to drag the case and resort to delay tactics, which has been frowned upon by the trial court. If that can be a ground for transfer, there would be such petitions in almost all criminal cases. This practice cannot be permitted," the court said.

The petitioner had sought for a direction to transfer the cases to any other court of sessions. It was stated that the trial court at Bengaluru had rejected his plea seeking transfer only on the ground that the special court was specially designated to try offences against elected representatives.

Justice Arun noted that the special court is the designated court to deal with cases pertaining to the elected representatives and that the trial court had rightly rejected Prajwal's application seeking transfer of cases to another court.

In August 2025, the special court had convicted Prajwal and ordered a maximum life sentence (imprisonment for the remainder of person's natural life) in the first of the four cases of rape/sexual abuse against him. The SIT had filed the charge sheet in this case in September 2024 and the trial commenced in May 2025. Prajwal has been in judicial custody since his arrest on May 31, 2024.

IN LOVING MEMORY



S. Anthony Swamy

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of S. Anthony Swamy (S/o Sowrappa Kodathi), born on 24th August 1952, who left for his heavenly abode on 24th September 2025.

He will be lovingly remembered and cherished by his wife, children & grandchildren.

Funeral Mass: 3:00 PM, 25-09-2025
St. Anthony's Church, Kodathi

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender No. 23_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB Date: 19.09.2025 PUB/1175

Sr.DEE/TR/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 23_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB, dt: 19.09.2025, closing date: 14.10.2025, 15:00hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Tender No.: 23_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB, dt: 19.09.2025 **Description of work:** Hyderabad Division: Provision of feeder, BM for DKC-KSN branch line, CB for CMTL siding at TMX and Coach - rehabilitation at Alampur road station over HYB **Approx. Cost:** ₹1,61,26,259.92/- **EMD:** ₹2,30,600.00/- **Completion Period:** 4 Months **Date of Closing:** 14.10.2025 **Website particulars:** www.ireps.gov.in **Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen:** Office of the Sr.DEE/Tr/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction), Hyderabad

Tender No. 24_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB Date: 22.09.2025 PUB/1176

Sr.DEE/TR/HYB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 24_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB, dt: 22.09.2025, closing date: 14.10.2025, 15:00hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Tender No.: 24_2025_26_Sr.DEE_Tr_HYB, dt: 22.09.2025 **Description of work:** Hyderabad division - Kacheguda - Provision of additional stabling line for parcel loading / unloading - Electrical TRD arrangements **Approx. Cost:** ₹97,02,297.50/- **EMD:** ₹194100.00/- **Completion Period:** 4 Months **Date of Closing:** 14.10.2025 **Website particulars:** www.ireps.gov.in **Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen:** Office of the Sr.DEE/Tr/HYB, Hyderabad Bhavan, Secunderabad - 500025.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction), Hyderabad

Tender Notice No.: LGD/L/08/2025-26/OT Date: 22.09.2025 PUB/1179

Dy.CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No LGD/L/08/2025-26/OT - E- TENDER- closing date 21.10.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and/ or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summarily rejection of bid.

Tender No.: LGD/L/08/2025-26/OT **Description of work:** Outsourcing of non-core activities of AC shop, ER shop & EMU/MEMU Motor Coaches and Stripping of electrical items from condemned coaches CWS/LGD. **Advertised Value:** ₹1,57,62,665/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Five Only.) **Bid Security:** 2,28,800/- **Period of Completion:** 36 Months from the date of issue of letter of acceptance. **Date of Closing:** 21.10.2025 at 15:00 hrs. **Website Particulars:** www.ireps.gov.in **Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen:** Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad-500017.

For further Tender conditions/details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MATERIAL PROCUREMENT

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/contractors for the following works: **Tender No: 9625SWT03, Sr. No. 1, PL Code (Group) -** 96NS155, **Item Type GST(Y/N)** - Goods (Y), **Stock/Non-Stock** - Non-Stock, **Ordering** : ----, **Consider for Eval.** - Yes, **Approving Agency** - RDSO, **Inspection Agency** - TPI Agency, **Currency Allowed** - INR, **Estimated Rate** - , **Description:** Manufacture and supply of 10125 mm pre-curved/curved switches with ZU-1-60/60E1A1 thick web grade R-260 prime quality tongue rails & stock rails with elastic fasteners and spring operated setting device (RDSO-T/6216 read along with alterations), complete (with check rails) with all fitting for 1 in 12, BG 60 kg turn out for fan shaped layout on PSC sleepers i.e. all fitting for switch portion as per sub assembly drg. No. T-6155 (Alt. 13) (read with Latest alterations) in accordance with RDSO's standard drawing No. 6154 (read along with latest alterations) excluding standard fish Plates, fish bolts and nuts ER clips, insulating liners. Specifications: i) IRS - T-10-2025- For Thick Web Switches, ii) IRS - T - 62 2025 - For End Forging of Thick Web Asymmetrical rails. Note: (1). Pre-curving shall be done as per RDSO letter No. CT/PTX/TWS/Design dt. 06.07.2023. Note:- I) Zu-1-60/60E1A1 thick web R-260 rails for tongue rail will be arranged by vendor at his own cost. Rails for Stock Rails & Check Rails (R-260) shall also be arranged by Supplier at their own cost in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/Track-I(P)/Fabricators dated 24.01.2022 & 31.07.2023. II) Latest alterations will mean the latest alterations issued by RDSO as on date of closing of this e-tender. LH/RH Qty will be given in Annexure-1 attached with Coverage PO. Curved/Pre-curved Qty- Similar/Contrary Flexure with Degree will be given in Annexure-1 with Coverage PO [**Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery] **Quantity Tolerance** (+/-): 0% age, **Item Category:** Normal Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]. **Consignee**-SSE/P-WAY/STORE/SUR, Maharashtra, 100 Set. **UVAM Item ref.** - (Item Id: - 3100582 - THICK WEB SWITCHES, THICK, Sub Item Id:- 3100582001 - THICK WEB SWITCHES). **Inspection Details** - Product Inspection: Stage 1: Metallurgical and dimensional inspection (100% of PO quantity), Stage 2: Final inspection (100% of PO quantity). The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Material Manager

SUN 80 अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

Open e-Tender Notice No. Dy.CE/GS/SC/07/2025/OT Date: 22-09-2025 PUB/1181

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works:

e-Tender No.: 07_GS_SC_25_OT **Name of the work:** SW-I:- Earth work in formation, construction of new bridges, extension of existing Bridge, Laying and Linking of BG track, assembling and insertion of points and crossings, supplying, leading and dumping of stone ballast Construction of RBG Building, construction of HL Platform , COPs, Approach Road and other miscellaneous works for proposed New Byepass Line at Parli Vaijanath station for connecting Parli Vaijanath - Latur Road & Parlivaijnath -Parbhani main lines. **Approx. Tender Value:** 22,41,65,857/- **EMD:** 12,70,800/- **Completion period in Months:** 12 **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** A1. Any Civil Engineering work consisting of execution of earthwork in formation and any type of bridges. **Bid closing date:** 30-10-2025

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. **2.** Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at ireps.gov. in which can be downloaded, can be participated and can view any modifications if any. **3.** All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments only. **4.** The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of CPM/GS/SC, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days. **5.** The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. **6.** All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

Visit our site at **"www.ireps.gov.in"**

Dy.CE/Gati Shakti, Secunderabad
A1491

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

शुद्धि–पत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा प्रकाशित ई–निविदा संख्या 01/R3/2024-25/EE/RWD/LATEHAR जिसका PR No. – 361729 Rural Development (25-26):D है, अंकित योजना ओरसापाठ से कुकुदपाठ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (आईडेंटीफिकेशन सं0 RWD/LATEHAR/4/2024-25) का निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारण से रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

PR 362773 (REO) 25-26 (D)

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, बुटी,राँची–834009

शुद्धि–पत्र

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, बुटी, रांची अन्तर्गत ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना स0–पे०स्व०वि० / वितरण / 02 / 2025–26 दिनांक–12.09.2025 जो PR No. – 361939 Drinking water & Sanitation (25-26) D के द्वारा विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है, के तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नांकित प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है।

क्र.सं.	विवरण	पूर्व प्रकाशित तिथि	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	23.09.2025 अपरांह्न 4.00 बजे तक	25.09.2025 को 4.00PM तक
2	बीड प्राप्ति (ऑन लाईन बिडिंग) तिथि एवं समय	27.09.2025 अपरांह्न 5.00 बजे तक	03.09.2025 को 05.00PM तक
3	निविदा अन्तर्गत परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि ई–गवर्नस विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय धुर्वा, रांची के आदेश सह ज्ञापांक–120 दिनांक–0310. 2023 के अनुरूप Online करने की तिथि	27.09.2025 अपरांह्न 5.00 बजे तक	03.09.2025 को 05.00PM तक
4	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	03.10.2025 अपरांह्न 5.00 बजे	04.10..2025 को 5.00PM तक

नोट :– यह शुद्धि पत्र परिणाम विपत्र का भाग होगा एवं शेष पूर्वत रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता स्वर्णरेखा वितरण प्रमंडल, बुटी, रांची

PR 362804 Drinking Water and Sanitation(25-26).D

AWARDING OF RAIL DISPLAY NETWORK CONTRACT & COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT AT TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-Auction for awarding of Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) at 33 stations over Tinsukia Division & Commercial Advertising contract LCD/LED TVs at Jorhat Town Railway Station. **Rate Unit:** Annual Licensing Fee. **Trips/Days.** 1096.

Auction Catalogue No. TSK-RDN-2025-05

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	ADVT-TSK-TSK-OSD-209-24-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital))	Rail Display Network Contract (RDN) through Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Video Wall of (size 6' x 4') 33 stations at Namtiali, Titabar, Amguri, Selenghat, Nakachari, Golaghat, Bhalukmara, Baruabamungaon, Numaligarh Furkating, Kamarbandha Ali, Duliajan, Naharkatia, Namrup, Borhat, Sapekhati, Bhojo, Lakwa, Simaluguri, Tinsukia, Makum, Digboi, Margherita, Ledo, Chabua, Panitola, Kowang, Dhamalgaon, Dikom, Lahowal, Chalkhowa, Moranhat, Sivasagar Town with scope of display of advertisements along with railway messages in 50:50 Time Slot / Space sharing
AA/2	ADVT-TSK-JTTN-OSD-159-24-1 (Advertising-On Station Premise (Digital))	Commercial Advertising LCD/LED (7 Nos. of TVs) at Jorhat Town Railway Station

Auction Start Date & Time: **11.00** hrs. & **Closing Date & Time**: **11.40** hrs. on **10-10-2025**. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Commercial Manager (IC), Tinsukia

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

JHARKHAND ZOO AUTHORITY
BHAGAWAN BIRSA BIOLOGICAL PARK, ORMANJHI, RANCHI
Email Id- jharkhandzooauthority@gmail.com, Phone No. 9470590737

Notice No: 01/2025 **Date:24/09/2025**

Request for Proposal (RFP)
for
Hiring of Consulting firm for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Bid Documents, Assistance in Bid Process Management, and Monitoring & Supervision for Development of Modern Zoos at Giridih and Dumka, Jharkhand

Jharkhand Zoo Authority invites "Proposals" from the eligible consultancy agencies to submit their interest to provide the Consulting Services for "Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Bid Documents, Assistance in Bid Process Management, and Monitoring & Supervision for Development of Modern Zoos at Giridih and Dumka, Jharkhand".
Interested Agencies may submit their "Proposal" in a sealed envelope clearly superscripted as "Proposal for the Consulting Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), Bid Documents, Assistance in Bid Process Management, and Monitoring & Supervision for Development of Modern Zoos at Giridih and Dumka, Jharkhand"latest by 15:30 hours on **08th November'2025**.
Interested agencies may obtain further information and procedures for submitting the "Proposal" by downloading the RFP document from the official website of Jharkhand Zoo Authority i.e. **https://birsazoo jharkhand.in/**

Sd/-
Member Secretary
Jharkhand Zoo Authority

PR 362815 Jharkhand Zoo Authority(25-26).D

Department of Telecommunictions
Ministry of Communication
Government of India

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2025
Inviting Applications

The Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications, Govt of India) invites online nominations for **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Telecom Excellence Award 2025** from the citizens of India and organisations/institutions registered in India or created by the Central/ State governments/ Union Territories for their notable and exceptional contributions in the area/ areas of Telecom Innovations, Telecom Skilling, Telecom Services, Telecom Manufacturing, or Telecom Applications in deploying telecom dependent sectoral solutions for different fields such as agriculture, commerce, health, education etc. Preference shall be given for the works done in rural / remote areas and aspirational districts.

2. Each Award shall carry a shawl, citation/ plaque and a cash amount of rupees Two Lakh per awardee. Not more than five Awards shall be given, subject to suitable candidate/s being selected by the Award Committee.

3. The awardees will be reimbursed airfare towards travelling to/ from his place to the station where the Award Function is held and will also be paid a lump sum amount of 7500 Rs. towards incidental expenses.

4. **Applications can be submitted online at National Award Portal, i.e., https://www.awards.gov.in.** The last date of receipt of nominations is 30th October, 2025 up to 23:59 hours.

5. For more details, please refer the 'Regulations' at the website **https://www.awards.gov.in**

For more information please contact:

Director (SD), DOT, Room No 201, 2nd floor, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Old Minto Road, New Delhi- 110002,

Mobile: 9414001442, email: dirsde-dot@gov.in

CBC 06201/11/0001/2526

At least 4 dead as Ladakh burns...

Ladakh, From Page 1

After the violence, Wangchuk issued an appeal for peace and called off his hunger strike.

While many participants described the agitation as a "Gen Z-led protest", the BJP accused the Congress of fuelling chaos. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey claimed that Congress Gen Z leader Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag, an elected ward member from the party, was behind the protest.

"A fire was set at @BJP4India office in Ladakh, @RahulGandhi ji, its leader is your GEN Z, Phuntsog Stanzin Tsepag, who is an elected ward member from the @INCIndia party. will be the consequence of playing with fire? Stop challenging BJP workers," he said.

However, the immediate trigger was the deterioration in the health condition of two supporters of Wangchuk. Two of the 15 strikers were hospitalised, prompting the LAB's youth wing to announce a shutdown and street protests.

The Union Home Ministry had on September 20 announced that talks with Ladakhi leadership would resume on October 6. The ministry had earlier constituted a high-powered committee in January 2023 after prolonged protests, but the dialogue has made little headway.

The demand for safeguards dates back to August 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated, Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated, and Ladakh was made a UT and placed under direct central rule. Since then, residents have repeatedly warned of losing land rights, jobs, and cultural identity.

In the wake of Wednesday's violence, the KDA has announced a complete shutdown in Kargil on Thursday. Authorities have stepped up deployments across both districts, but the situation in Leh remained tense at the time of filing this report.

Justice Das panel winds up

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Justice HN Nagamohan Das Commission, which was tasked with inquiring into the '40% commission' and other corruption allegations against the previous BJP government, wound up its functioning rather abruptly on Tuesday.

The panel last submitted its report on corruption allegations in BBMP works on August 30. It had asked the government for time till September 30, staff and resources to complete formalities. However, the government withdrew vehicles and staff that were provided. Therefore, the panel informed the government that it shut shop on September 23.

Murder case: CID moves HC to vacate protection to BJP MLA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday filed an application before the high court seeking to vacate the interim protection granted to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in connection with the FIR against him in the murder of Shivakumar alias Biklu Shiva.

Justice M I Arun adjourned the hearing after granting time to file objections to the application.

Shivakumar was murdered near his house on Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar on July 15. The Bharatinagar police named Basavaraj as accused number 5 in the case.

On July 24, the case was transferred to the CID. The high court had granted an interim relief to Basavaraj in his petition challenging the FIR, contending that he neither has any connection to the murder nor knew the deceased personally.

During the hearing on Wednesday, Additional State Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesha informed the court that the other accused in the case have been booked under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act.

He also submitted that Basavaraj is not cooperating with the investigation and that a custodial interrogation is required.

High Court rejects X plea, says social media needs regulation

HC, From Page 1

The MHA sent a letter asking the X Corp to appoint a 'Nodal Officer' to ensure compliance with the blocking orders that will be issued through the portal, the petition said.

The court examined as to whether the rules now occupying the field (2021 Rules) demand a fresh interpretation as the SC had considered the 2011 Rules in the Shreya Singhal case.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that while the SC had predicated on the judgement of Reno vs American Civil Liberties Union, the Reno case itself has been diluted in subsequent pronouncements of the American Supreme Court.

"Shreya Singhal spoke of 2011 rules, now consigned to history. The 2021 Rules, fresh in their conception and distinct in their design, demand their own interpretative frame unsaddled by precedents that address the bygone regime," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said that "regulated speech by contrast preserves both liberty and order, the twin pillars upon which democracy must stand". "None may presume to treat the Indian marketplace a mere playground where information can be disseminated in defiance of statutes or disregard to legality. And later adopting a posture of detachment or hands off," it noted.

Sahyog, a beacon of cooperation

Regarding the challenge to the Sahyog portal, the court said "it's an instrument of public good, conceived under the authority of Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act and Rule 3(b) of the 2021 Rules".

"It stands as a beacon of cooperation between citizens and the intermediary—a mechanism through which the State endeavours to combat the growing menace of cybercrime. To assail its validity is to misunderstand its purpose. Hence, the challenge is without merit," the court said.

BJP treats Nitish as a liability: Kharge blasts at Bihar CM

Kharge, From Page 1

Wednesday's CWC meeting came against the backdrop of the upcoming Assembly poll. The party is aiming at widening its base by reaching out to its original vote bank -- upper castes, Dalits and Muslims.

Former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka were, however, conspicuous by their absence although former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel clarified that "Sonia ji could not come to attend the CWC meet due to her poor health condition".

Kharge, while sounding the party's battle cry in Patna, said Bihar has always given a new direction to the nation's politics.

"The Bihar poll is a countdown for the beginning of the end of the Modi government at the Centre," said Kharge, who slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi in no uncertain terms for his "failure" on foreign policy as well as domestic affairs.

"The man, whom Modi calls his friend, has created all sorts of problems for Indians," said Kharge, without naming US President Donald Trump while dwelling at length on how the high US tariffs have adversely affected India.

"Even on the domestic front, Modi has visited Bihar 10 times this year and 55 times (total) as the PM. He promised to open the closed sugar mills and drink tea with its sugar. However, not one sugar mill was reopened by Modi. His promises are similar to what he said about giving employment to 2 crore youths," Kharge went on slamming the PM in a no-holds-barred mood.

The Congress president asked Modi why he did not come out in support of the Bihar regime which had passed a legislation for 65% reservation, which was eventually struck down by the court.

"Under Modi, the country is reeling under economic slowdown, unemployment, rising inequality and unfulfilled promises," said Kharge.

His fiction spanned myth...

Bhyrappa, From Page 1

When he saw the first few episodes, he was impressed and said the character was exactly as he had imagined it. I couldn't have asked for a greater compliment.

Sometime in 2005-06, I had decided to translate the novel 'Grihabhanga' into English. When I gave a sample to Bhyrappa and sought his permission, he was gracious enough to say, 'Go ahead. Don't worry about its publication or the money. I will pay you for it because that novel has brought me a lot of money and recognition'.

I gave up translating the novel after reading 'Aavarana', with its anti-Muslim rhetoric, and the discussions that followed in the wake of its publication.

Though I have mixed feelings about his works, I have no doubt that he was a towering figure in Kannada literature.

(The author is a well-known theatre and television artiste, translator and retired professor of English)

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Solapur Division
ELECTRICAL WORK (GSU)
E-Tender Notice No. 05-2025-GSU-Elect-G

CPM, Gati Shakti, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms / Contractor for the following work. **Name of work:**- Electrical General service work for the (A) Provision of Parcel and Goods Shed related facilities at (i) Solapur : Provision of CGS Office & parcel office (ii) Kalburgi: Provision of parcel office (iii) Kurduwadi: Provision of Hamal room and CGS office (iv) Wadi: Provision of Parcel office & store room (v) Pandharpur: Provision of Hamal Room (B) Wadi - Resurfacing of PF 1/2 and 3/4 of Wadi station and other improvement works. **Approximate cost of work** - ₹1,70,95,922.48/-, **Earnest Money** - ₹ 2,35,500.00/-, **Completion period of the work** - 12 (Twelve) Months, **Maintenance Period** - 12 (Twelve) months from the date of commissioning/taking over of the installation. **Last Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website** - 20.10.2025 up to 15.00 hrs., **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** - 20.10.2025 after 15.30 hrs., **Website particulars** - www.ireps.gov.in, **Note** : The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change/corrigendum issued for this tender website : www.ireps.gov.in

SUN 79 Chief Project Manager (GSU)

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MATERIAL PROCUREMENT

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms/contractors for the following works: **Tender No: 9625NCR01, Sr. No.** 1, **PL Code (Group)** - 96NS4218, **Item Type GST(Y/N)** - Goods (Y), **Stock/Non-Stock** - Non-Stock, **Ordering** : ----, **Consider for Eval.** - Yes, **Approving Agency** - RDSO, **Inspection Agency** - TPI Agency, **Currency Allowed** - INR, **Estimated Rate** - , **Description:** Manufacture and supply of 6 mm thick Nylon Cord Reinforced GRSP for placing beneath rails at 1:12/60 kg Turnout conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-4218(alt-9) with OR CS to IRS Specification No. T-55-2025 (Revision 1) (with latest alteration and revised specifications upto the date of tender closing) - (List of Nylon Cord Reinforced GRSP to be supplied in one set as per Annexure A)] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Quantity Tolerance (+/-): 0 %age, Item Category: Normal Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]. **Consignee**-SSE/P-WAY/STORE/SUR, Maharashtra, 2000 Set. **Inspection Details** - Stage Inspection Not Required, **UVAM Item ref.** - (Item Id: - 3100582 - RAIL PADS, Sub Item Id:- 3100584003 - NCR GRSP. **Earnest Money (INR)** - Rs. 849600/-, **Date & Time of Closing of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in** - 13/10/2025 after 11:30. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

SUN 81 Sr. Divisional Material Manager

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

MULTIDISCIPLINARY SPORT COMPLEX AT LUMDING

E-Tender Notice No.: LMG/Engg/70 of 2025 Dated: 18-09-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Brief Description of Item:** Multidisciplinary sport Complex at Lumding for Basket Ball, Volley Ball, Lawn Tennis, Badminton etc. & development of Railway Stadium for Cricket & Football at Lumding under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV. **Tender Value:** ₹6,87,01,894.10/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹4,93,500/-. **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **15:00** hrs. on **13-10-2025 & opening at 15.00** hrs. on **14-10-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto **15.00** hrs. of **13-10-2025** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (W), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. LRC-3_CT_LHB_NAC-RSP-R, dated 19.09.2025. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from tenderers having financial and technically capabilities for the following work:**Name of Work:** "Up-gradation of Toilet in LHB Non-AC Coaches". **Approx. Cost of works:** ₹ 65,20,67,374/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹ 34,10,300/-; **Tender Document Cost:** 0.00; **Tender Closing date and time:** 08.10.2025 at 14.00 hrs. **Website where complete details of Tender available : www.ireps.gov.in**

MISC-213/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender Notice No. KPA- ERS-OT-08-25-26, Dated : 23.09.2025. Tender Notice for E-tender is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Loco, Eastern Railway, Kanchrapara Workshop, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, PIN-743145 Kanchrapara for the following work : **Tender No.: KPA- ERS-OT-08-25-26. Description** : Installation, testing & commissioning of Air Conditioners (with trough) and provision of LED type signal exchange light on Electric Locomotive during POH, Qty. 20 nos. locomotives (40 Nos. Cabs). **Tender Value :** ₹ 47,55,199/- only inclusive GST & all other charges. **Date and time of Closing of tender** : 13.10.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Period of completion** : 12 months. The Tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : **www.ireps.gov.in**. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

MISC-217/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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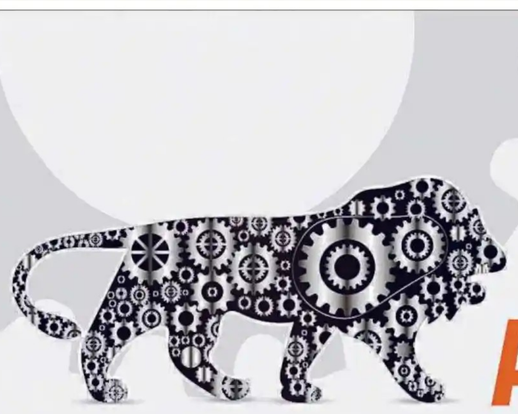
Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you Jesus for all the Blessings recieved.
- Shalini N Prasad

Thanksgiving

Grateful thanks to Miraculous Infant Jesus for favours received.
- Geetha



Government of India

A decade of Self-reliance

A decade of Make in India

The Big Leap
- India is now the **world's 2nd largest** mobile phone manufacturer
- Electronics production jumped from ₹1.9 lakh crore to **₹11.3 lakh crore**

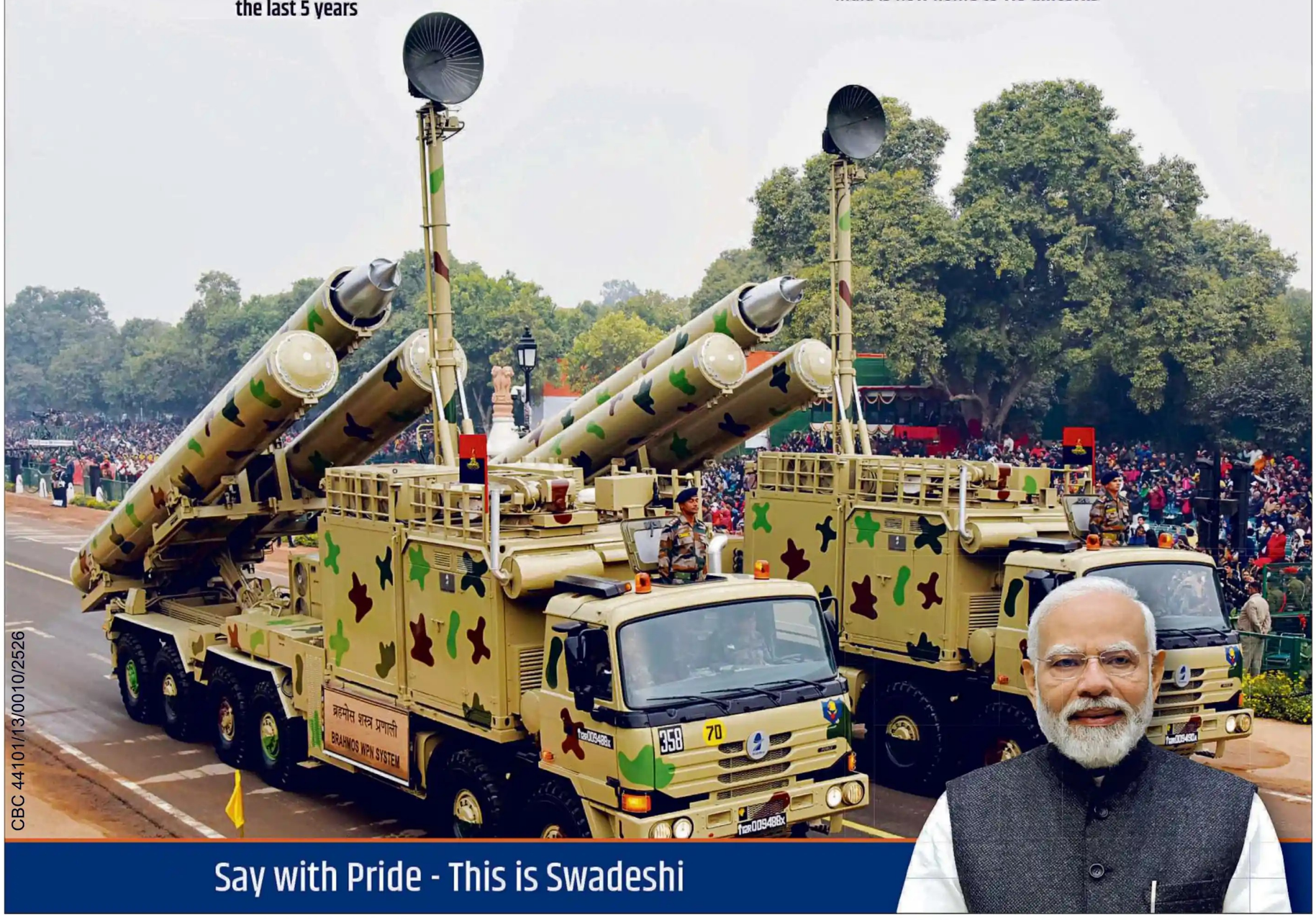
A Swadeshi Revolution
- India proudly made its **first swadeshi semiconductor chip**
- **₹76,000 crore** Semiconductor Mission boosting self-reliance

A Proud Defence Exporter
- India is now exporting defence equipment to **over 100 countries**
- Production rose **225%** - from ₹46,430 crore to **₹1.5+ lakh crore**

Pharmacy of the world
- India is the world's **3rd largest** drug producer by volume
- Indian medicines reach **200+ countries**

A Historic Surge
- Exponential growth in vehicle production with **over 2.8 crore** units manufactured in 2023-24
- Auto components industry almost **doubled in the last 5 years**

An Era of Innovation
- From Job-seeker to Job-giver, **India's 1.8+ lakh startups** have created **17.6+ lakh jobs**
- India is now home to **118 unicorns**



CBC 44101/13/0010/2526

Say with Pride - This is Swadeshi

Celebrity novelist S L Bhyrappa no more

End of an era: One of Kannada's most read authors, his works were known for their 'visual quality'

RICH TRIBUTES

"He made remarkable contributions in the fields of literature, philosophy, culture and intellectual inquiry. He brought Kannada literature to national and global prominence through his works while staying true to its cultural roots."
DROUPADI MURMU
President

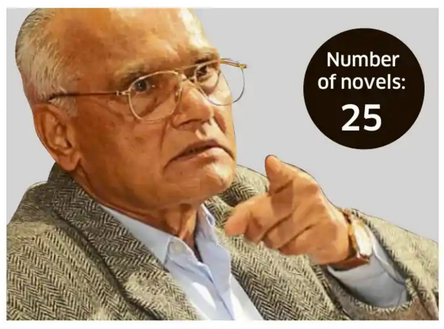
"In the passing of SL Bhyrappa Ji, we have lost a towering stalwart who stirred our conscience and delved deep into the soul of India. A fearless and timeless thinker, he profoundly enriched Kannada literature with his thought-provoking works. His writings inspired generations. His unwavering passion for our history and culture will continue to inspire minds for years to come. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this sad hour.
NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"Having gifted outstanding novels to the Kannada literary world and won the hearts of millions of readers, the departure of Bhyrappa is an irreplaceable loss.
H D DEVE GOWDA
former prime minister

"I pray that Bhyrappa's soul finds peace. Due to his intimate writing style, Bhyrappa had a vast readership, and his demise has impoverished the literary world. My condolences to his family and readers.
SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"The passing away of Dr SL Bhyrappa, the one who brought the first Saraswati Samman award to Kannada literary world, has caused immense sorrow. I pray that God grants strength to literature enthusiasts and his family members to bear this grief.
D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"I have read Bhyrappa's novels closely and have been deeply captivated by his narrative style. He was a true Indian novelist, born in Karnataka and writing in Kannada itself. I take pride in the fact that this 'immortal talent' was born in Hassan district.
H D KUMARASWAMY
Union Minister



HIS LIFE, TIMES & WORKS

Well-known works
- Parva
- Vamshavruksha
- Daatu
- Avarana
- Tantu

Novels made into movies
- Vamshavruksha
- Tabbaliyu Neenade Magane
- Mathadhaana
- Nayi Neralu
- Gruhabhanga (TV series)

Parva
- One of the most famous novels
- Adapted on stage both in English and Kannada
- Translated to Russian and Chinese

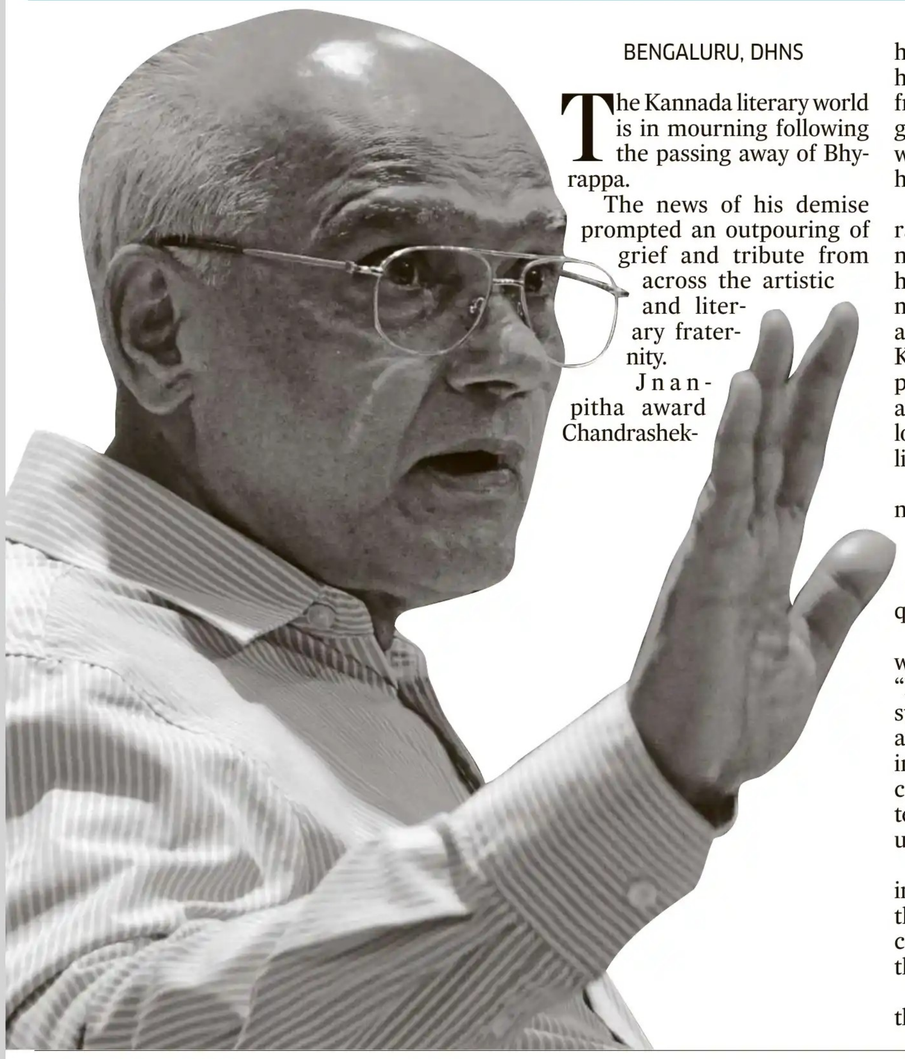
Awards
- Padma Bhushan
- Padma Shri
- Saraswati Samman
- Bharathiya Bhasha Parishad award for 'Tantu'
- Sahitya Akademi Award for 'Daatu'
- Kannada Sahitya Akademi awards for 'Vamshavruksha,' 'Saakshi,' 'Daatu'
- Nadoja award
- Pampa award

Translations
- **To all 14 scheduled languages of India :** Daatu and Gruhabanga
- **English:** Total translated 12 including Bhitti, Mandra, Vamshavruksha, Aavarana and Sakshi
- **Marathi:** Total translated 13, including Tantu, Sartha, Anchu and Anveshana
- **Hindi:** Total translated 16, including Tabbaliyu Neenade Magane, Nayi Neralu and Nirakarana
- Many have been translated to Bengali, Telugu, Sanskrit, Tamil and Urdu

Scan this to read P Sheshadri's article

FOOTPRINTS OF SLB

July 26, 1931: Born at Santheshivara at Chennarayapatna in Hassan
1958-60: Worked as a professor at Kaadasiddeshwara College, Hubballi
1962: Awarded PhD from Sayyaji Rao University, Baroda (Vadodara)
1960-66: Worked as a professor at Sardar Patel University in Gujarat
1961: First book 'Dharmashree' was published
1966: Awarded Kannada Sahitya Akademi award for 'Vamshavruksha'
1967-71: Worked as an associate professor at National Institute of Education and Training
1975: Awarded the Kendra Sahitya Akademi award for 'Daatu'
1991: Retired from the Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru
1996: Autobiography 'Bhitti' released
1999: Presided over the 67th Akhila Bharatha Kannada Sahitya Sammelana at Kanakapura
2005: Pampa award by Karnataka government
2007: Gulbarga University awards him honorary doctorate
2010: Saraswati Samman award
2011: Nadoja award by Hampi Kannada University
2014: Betageri Krishna Sharma award
2014: Selected for national research professorship
2015: Gets Sahitya Akademi fellowship
2016: Padmashri award
2017: Nrupathunga award
2023: Padma Bhushan award



BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kannada literary world is in mourning following the passing away of Bhyrappa.

The news of his demise prompted an outpouring of grief and tribute from across the artistic and literary fraternity.

Jnanpitha award Chandrashekhara Kambara recollected that he and Bhyrappa were very close friends and used to travel together a lot. Their conversations were filled with endless humour, he said.

Kambara expressed his admiration for Bhyrappa's writing, noting that he had a "map" for his work and was a very good man. After returning from the US as a Fulbright scholar in 1968-69, Kambara was helped by Bhyrappa to get a job. He supported him, and they had mutual respect and love for each other. Bhyrappa was like a guru to him, he added.

P Sheshadri, a renowned Kannada filmmaker, reflected on Bhyrappa's unique craft, describing him as a writer whose works possess a powerful visual quality.

"Whenever we read his works, we get an image," Sheshadri said. "For a filmmaker, the image is strong, and I see his novels visually." He has authored 24 novels in over 60 years of his literary career. The 400 to 500 characters in his novels are different and unique, he added.

He had that capacity to enter into multiple characters and the thoughts that develop in these characters, he used to capture them in his writings.

Sheshadri recounted the author's initial aversion to filmmakers, recalling an instance during the making of Vamshavruksha, when Bhyrappa insisted that only B V Karanth could direct the film, stating, "Even if he makes mistakes, those will be creative mistakes."

For Sheshadri, Bhyrappa remains alive through his works, having secured a "chair (pitha) in the hearts of the readers," a recognition the author himself valued more than Jnanpitha award.

Literary critic T P Ashoka noted Bhyrappa's independence from literary movements such as the Navya, Dalita, and Bandaya.

Sudha Murty, spoke to reporters, expressing her deep sorrow. She named Tabbaliyu Neenade Magane, Saartha, Gruhabhanga, Bhitti (his autobiography), Dharmashree, Naayi Neralu, and Nirakarana among her favorites.

Fellow writer Vaidehi recalled reading his novels like Doora Saridaru, Daatu and his other popular novels during her college days.

Hampa Nagarajaiah emphasised Bhyrappa's discipline and extensive research, which became a hallmark of his works.

Vivek Shanbhag, another prominent writer, focused on Bhyrappa's superior craftsmanship. "There is absolutely no doubt that Bhyrappa was one of the best novelists in Kannada," Shanbhag said.

President Droupadi Murmu presents the Padma Bhushan award to S L Bhyrappa in New Delhi in 2023. PTI FILE

Silent Samaritan who funded education of poor students

Writer won legal battle on copyright of his novel in 2023

MYSURU, DHNS

Novelist S L Bhyrappa, who died on Wednesday, won a legal battle over copyright on his novel in 2023 against a Hyderabad-based publisher. The publisher was penalised for translating Bhyrappa's novel 'Vamshavruksha,' without permission.

The Mysuru District and Sessions Court imposed a fine of Rs 5.05 lakh on Vathsala of Priyadarshini Prachurunalu for publishing the Telugu translation of Kannada novel 'Vamshavruksha' of Bhyrappa, without availing permission, in an order issued on December 21, 2023, for violation of the Copyright Act.

The rights for translation of 'Vamshavruksha' in Telugu was given to Sanagaram Nagabushanam and it was published as 'Vamshavrukshaam' earlier. Since the death of Nagabushanam, a few years ago, the Telugu rights were not given to anybody else. Advocate O Sham Bhat had represented Bhyrappa.

Besides being made into a film in Kannada in 1971, by noted theatre person B V Karanth, 'Vamshavruksha' was a textbook for post-graduation courses.

A close associate of Bhyrappa said the writer, who faced hardships during his childhood and in his student life, was more concerned about youth.

"He used to fund the education of numerous students, so that they can chart their future well. However, he never revealed that he was helping the students. A few youth used to narrate how Bhyrappa helped them to complete their education," he said.

S L Bhyrappa Sahitya Pratisthana has been presenting awards to notable writers for a few years now.

Politics

Bhyrappa had keen interest in politics. In an interaction with mediapersons on March 29, 2024, just a couple of months before the Lok Sabha elections, Bhyrappa had said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will definitely become PM again, but the BJP would manage to win just half the number of seats in the Lok Sabha poll in Karnataka, as the Congress is strong here". Incidentally, the performance of the BJP was not so good as in the 2019 elections.

The Karnataka government took up the construction of 'S L Bhyrappa Art and Culture Development Centre' at his native Santheshivara in March 2023.

The government allotted Rs 5 crore for the development of Bhyrappa's birth place Santheshivara in 2020-21. Later, it was decided to build a study centre at a cost of Rs 5 crore, as per the wishes of Bhyrappa's family members.

The building, ground plus two floors, is coming up on a 120X90 feet site. Most of the land is given by the writer, while a small portion of it is donated by Gangegowda from the same village.

Hubballi publishing house brought out many of his works

HUBBALLI, DHNS

Since the publication of his novel *Dharmashree* in 1961, renowned Kannada novelist S L Bhyrappa has authored 26 novels, six books on literary thoughts, and an autobiography -all published by the Hubballi-based Sahitya Bhandara publishing house.

In recent years, Bhyrappa would visit Hubballi once every two years, often remarking that the city was his most cherished place after Mysuru.

In September last year, he stayed for over a week at the house of M A Subrahmanya of Sahitya Prakashana and Sahitya Bhandara.

During his stay, he participated in several programmes, including Sahitya Bhandara's Ma Ananthamurthy memorial literary event and an interaction at RSS office.

As college lecturer

Subrahmanya recalled, "When he was a lecturer at Shri Kadasiddheshwar College here, his novel *Dharmashree* was published after he met Sahitya Bhandara founder Ma Govindarao, my uncle. Since then, his association with Sahitya Bhandara grew stronger, and his books were published from its Bengaluru branch after 1970. A 65-year continuous association with a writer and publishing house is rare."

Subrahmanya said Bhyrappa's novels were widely popular because of their subject matter, depth, storytelling, and extensive research.

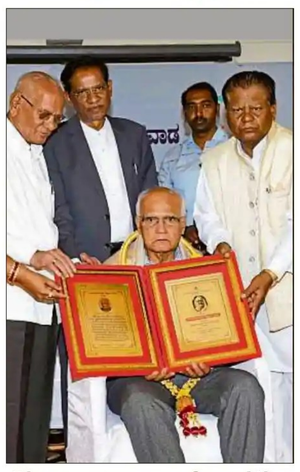
Most reprints

While all his works drew acclaim, *Avarana* saw the most reprints, reflecting its deep resonance with the soul of India. Despite his physical frailty, Bhyrappa visited friends and well-wishers in the twin cities for a week last year.

Writer Veena Shanteshwar said, "There can never be another Bhyrappa in Kannada literature. Criticism from the Navya and Bandaya schools never deterred him. He cultivated a reading habit among youth and women. *Vamshavruksha* created a storm."

She said many feel he richly deserved Jnanpith Award. Writer Hema Pattenshetti described him as "a literary researcher of the highest order," praising his discipline, and commitment to research-driven writing.

For Bhyrappa, novel-writing was a craft demanding creativity, talent, language mastery, and the discipline of an artist, a philosophy reflected in both his life and his works, she said.



Bhyrappa was conferred the Ambikatanayadatta national award in Dharwad in 2020.

Mysuru's literati cover one of their own with laurels

MYSURU, DHNS: Most writers and dignitaries of Mysuru spoke good about Bhyrappa.

Retired professor and writer K S Bhagawan said he and Bhyrappa were neighbours and had a cordial relationship.

"We used to visit each other and were good friends. Bhyrappa was very popular among the readers and explored a variety of subjects. He has reflected the ups and downs and also problems in one's life well in his books. The characters in his novels are interesting".

Their houses were opposite to each other on Udayaravi Road in Kuvempunagar.

Pradhan Gurudattaa close associate of Bhyrappa for five decades and who has also translated his books into English, has fond memories of the writer.

"I translated eight of his novels, including 'Daatu' and 'Uttara Kanda'. Whenever he was in Mysuru, we used to meet regularly and take the morning stroll together," he said.

Retired professor and writer C Naganna said, "It is the end of an era. He was in the league of Aa Na Krishna Rao (AaNaKru), Ta Ra Subba Rao (TaRaSu) and Anasuya Shankar (Triveni), who inspired people to read books.

Banu Mushtaq on rendezvous with SLB

MYSURU, DHNS: International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq has condoled the demise of S L Bhyrappa and recalled his visit to her house, 'to know the lives of Muslims,' before authoring 'Avarana'.

Mushtaq recalls Bhyrappa did not follow any strict rules in his eating habits. "As Bhyrappa said he would prefer vegetarian dishes, we had removed all non-veg items in the fridge and prepared only vegetarian dishes for him, which he liked,"she said.

Never let idleness set in even during hospitalisation

SHRADDHA A K
BENGALURU, DHNS

Novelist and writer S L Bhyrappa passed away at the age of 94 at Rashtrothana Hospital, RR Nagar, Bengaluru, on Wednesday. Bhyrappa won accolades for his work and achievements throughout his career.

Bhyrappa was admitted in the hospital for a whole month where he underwent an Ayurvedic wellness programme that included physiotherapy and other treatments for rejuvenation. He was discharged, but returned to the hospital on Sunday.

"He was really healthy during his time here in the last one month. We would see him walk around the hospital parking lot every evening. He also attended events outside the hospital with special permission," a staff member of the hospital told *DH*.

Wellness programme

After the wellness programme ended, Bhyrappa was discharged and returned home, only to come back to the hospital on Sunday for another wellness programme. However, he was feeling weak due to a fever. He had no underlying issues, but had a history of heart problems and had a pacemaker implanted some years ago. After this, he lived a rather healthy life.

"The only reason we admitted him was because he was feeling tired and weak," Dr Shyla H N, medical administrator of Rashtrothana told *DH*. It was only around early afternoon on Wednesday that his health declined.

Bhyrappa went into cardiac arrest at around 11 am, and a code blue was called.

"We tried our best to resuscitate him, but nothing could be done. We called the time of death at 2.28 pm this afternoon, when he took his final breath," the doctor said, confirming that he passed away due to old age.

Pay last respects at Ravindra Kalakshetra

His mortal remains currently remain at Rashtrothana Hospital and will be moved to Ravindra Kalakshethra on Thursday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, where the public can pay their last respects.

After this, his mortal remains will be taken to Mysuru in a funeral procession.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that, our client intends to purchase the notional land arising out of the Development Right Certificate issued by the Bangalore Development Authority **("BDA")** which is morefully described in the Schedule hereto **("DRC")**, from its owner, **Society of Mary Immaculate (Mysore),** registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, with registration number 298/1971-72, having its registered office at Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **("Owner").** The Owner has represented that, it is the absolute owner of the DRC with unrestricted rights of alienation in respect of the same, save and except, Marrian Infra Private Limited, which has entered into agreement to purchase the DRC arising out of the relinquishment of land bearing CTS No. 298, PID No. 14-1-1/1, E.P.I.D No. 2138286086 measuring 1233.11 square meters of land along with 16.96 square meters of building situated at Kethamaranahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk.
Public are notified that, save and except the Owner and the agreement holder referred above, any other person having any right, title, claim or interest in the said DRC or to the above transaction, are hereby called upon to file their objections to the undersigned with supporting documents within **Ten (10)** days from the date of this notice. Failing which, it would be deemed that, no other person, excepting the Owner and the agreement holder, have any right, title or interest over the DRC and claim(s) if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

SCHEDULE
(Description of DRC)

Notional land of **2500.14 square meters** credited in **Development Right Certificate bearing No. 249 in Folio No. BDA/TDR/cell/DRC/249 of 2025-26 dated 18.09.2025** issued by BDA to the Owner, arising out of the relinquishment of land bearing **CTS No. 298, PID No. 14-1-1/1, E.P.I.D No. 2138286086 measuring 1233.11 square meters of land along with 16.96 square meters of building situated at Kethamaranahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk** by the Owner vide., **Relinquishment Deed dated 15.05.2025,** registered as Document No. **RJN-1-00749-2025-26,** in the office of the Sub Registrar, Rajajinagar.

Date : 25.09.2025

N.K. Dilip
Tatva Legal Bangalore, Advocates,
4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle,
No. 46, Ulsoor Road,
Bengaluru 560 042

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Advertisement Manager
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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
[SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 12/09/2025
CMP No. 119/2024
[VIDEO CONFERENCING / PHYSICAL HEARING]

Petitioner/s vs. **Respondent/s**
M/s. Globe Detective Agency Pvt. Ltd., Rep. By its Director Mr. Puneet Kumar — **Smt. Yashodha Venkatesh**

To, Respondent
Smt. Yashodha Venkatesh W/o Sri Venkatesh, residing at No.2-50(B), Kankanady House, Kadubetta Post, Kadubetta Village, Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka.
Also available at: No. 307, 2nd Floor, Ebony Block, St.John's Wood Apartment, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 029.
.....**RESPONDENT/S**

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996, as in the copy annexed.
Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **27/10/2025 at 10:30 A.M** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the appeal will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of this Court, on the 12th Day of September 2025.
By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar

I, UMAMAHESHWARI Residing at No.44, 9th 'A' Main, Byraveshwarnagar, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore-560072 have changed my name to A.UMAMAHESHWARI vide affidavit dated 23-09-2025 before Notary S.C Shashikala Bangalore.

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

RENT: BANK SPACE, 3000`Sqft. Ready Strong Room &`Facilities. #14,Flower Garden, Oppsite`BHEL Factory Mysore Road. Call:Landlord Vinod: 9845243132.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **K.VATHSALA** W/o V.Nagarajan, residing at #238, 1st Main, MES Road, Bandappa Nagar, Gokula, Bengaluru-560054, **K.Vatsala** as per my Pass Port No. M9100916, **K.Vathsala** as per Pan card No. ACUPV5877A & **K.Vathsala** as per Aadhar card No.4882 9997 1529. Henceforth I shall be known as **K. VATHSALA** for all my records/documents. Vide affidavit 23.09.2025 before notary K.V.Nanjaiah, Bengaluru

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business

PROPERTY COLLATERALS/ Joint Developments/ Take overs) R/E Buying Selling School/ Colleges/ Hospitals. Hot Drinks Factory (GOA). Dr. Swamy, Vamshadhara Projects/ Services-93422247637.

Godman booked for 'sexually harassing' 17 students in Delhi

NEW DELHI, PTI: A self-styled godman and "chairman" of a private management institute in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj has been booked for sexually harassing 17 students of the institute run by the Sri Sharada Peetham in Karnataka's Sringeri.

According to police, 62-year-old Swami Chaitanyananda Saraswati alias Swami Parthasarathy, a 'sanchalak' at the Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management, would allegedly target students who had gained admission under the EWS quota and threaten to fail them in exams. He would also lure them by promising foreign trips, police said.

Police have formed multiple teams to nab him and also issued a lookout circular to prevent him from fleeing the country.

The National Commission for Women has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter.

A senior police officer said that the accused claimed to be chairman of the institute, adding that all victims have recorded statements before a magistrate.

Meanwhile, the Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthanam Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham in Sringeri has issued a public statement distancing itself from him.

Police said they have also found in the institute's basement a Volvo car with a forged diplomatic number plate -- 39 UN 1 -- used by Saraswati.

Saraswati was also aided by three women wardens who would coerce students to give into his demands and also pressure students into deleting the messages sent by him. They have been named as co-accused in the FIR.

Centre blames Wangchuk for Ladakh violence that left 4 dead

Accuses activist of provoking mob amid statehood demands

Sonam Wangchuk

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday blamed climate activist Sonam Wangchuk for the violence in Ladakh, claiming that he misled people through "provocative mentions" of an Arab Spring-style protest and "references to Gen Z protests in Nepal".

The ministry said that the mob was incited by Wangchuk's "provocative statements" made during his hunger strike demanding statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory.

The statement followed an attack on a government building and a BJP office in Leh, as well as the killing of four people in police firing.

"The demands for which Wangchuk was on hunger strike are an integral part of the discussions in the High-Powered Committee (HPC). Despite several leaders urging him to call off the strike, he continued and misled the public through a provocative mention of Arab Spring-style protest and references to Gen Z protests in Nepal," the MHA said in a late-night statement.

It said the government stands committed to the aspiration of the people of Ladakh by providing adequate constitutional safeguards, while requesting people not to circulate old and provocative videos.

The MHA said the next meeting of the HPC has been scheduled on October 6; meetings are also planned on September 25-26 with leaders from Ladakh.

The ministry said a mob instigated by Wangchuk's "provocative" speeches left his protest venue at 11.30 am and attacked a political party office as well as the government office of the CEC, Leh.

"They also set fire to these offices, attacked security personnel and torched a police vehicle. The unruly mob assaulted police and CRPF personnel, injuring more than 30. In self-defence, police were forced to open fire, resulting in some casualties," it said.

"Barring the unfortunate incidents earlier in the day, the situation was brought under control by 4 pm. It is clear that the mob was incited by Wangchuk through his provocative statements. Incidentally, amid these violent developments, he broke his fast and left for his village in an ambulance without making serious efforts to control the situation," it added.

The MHA said Wangchuk started his hunger strike on September 10, demanding the inclusion of Ladakh in Schedule 6 of the Constitution and statehood.

The statement said it is well known that the Union government has been actively engaged with the Apex Body Leh and the Kargil Democratic Alliance on the same issues. A series of meetings was held through the formal channel of the HPC, and multiple informal interactions with leaders.

"The process of dialogue yielded phenomenal results by increasing reservations for Ladakh scheduled tribes from 45% to 84%, and the declaration of Bhoti and Purgi as official languages. However, politically motivated individuals have been trying to sabotage the dialogue process," it said.

RS polls for 4 J&K seats, vacant since 2021, on Oct 24

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Jammu and Kashmir will get representation in the Rajya Sabha after a gap of four years and eight months, with the Election Commission announcing polls for all four seats in the Union Territory on October 24.

A bypoll for one Rajya Sabha seat in Punjab, vacated after MP Sanjeev Arora was elected to the state Assembly, will also be held on the same day.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the EC stated that the four seats will be filled through three separate elections, as each vacancy falls under a different cycle.

Mir Mohammad Fayaz and Shamsher Singh retired on February 10, 2021, though their elections had been held in separate cycles. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway retired five days later, but were elected in a single cycle.

Following the retirement of Azad and Laway on February 15, 2021, Jammu and Kashmir remained unrepresented in the Rajya Sabha due to the absence of an Assembly, a consequence of President's Rule imposed after the revocation of the region's special status and its bifurcation into two Union Territories.

The I.N.D.I.A bloc has 52 MLAs on its side, while the BJP holds 28. Five MLAs are non-aligned, though they are unlikely to support the BJP. In this scenario, the I.N.D.I.A bloc may be in a position to comfortably send three leaders to the Rajya Sabha.

An election to the Assembly was held in October last year, but the EC has announced the Rajya Sabha poll schedule only now. In the interim, the poll panel was learnt to have proposed staggering the elections to avoid a situation where all seats go to polls simultaneously, but the government was not in favour.

In a statement, the EC said three separate notifications for Jammu and Kashmir will be issued on October 6. The last date for filing nominations is October 13, with the deadline for withdrawal set three days later.

Defending its decision to hold three separate polls for four seats, the EC cited a 1994 Delhi High Court judgment dismissing a petition by the late Congress leader AK Walia, which had sought a common election for three Rajya Sabha seats in Delhi.

A separate notification will be issued for the bypoll in Punjab. The AAP is expected to win the seat as it has 93 out of 117 MLAs on its side. The Congress has just 16 MLAs.

More vote-theft 'bombs' in a month: Cong

Promises 'hydrogen, uranium, and plutonium bombs'

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with LoP Rahul Gandhi during the party's flag hoisting ceremony before the extended CWC meeting, in Patna, on Wednesday. PTI

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday told a meeting of the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) that "mini-hydrogen, hydrogen, uranium, and plutonium bombs" were being readied to further expose "vote chori" in the next month.

At the meeting held at the Bihar Congress headquarters, a political resolution by party general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh dealt with a variety of issues, including the alleged "vote chori" and Special Intensive Revision in Bihar.

A second resolution — an appeal to Bihar's voters — was also cleared by the extended CWC. It blamed the Nitish government of not just "vote chori" but "zameen (land) chori" and "note chori".

Ramesh told reporters Rahul mentioned vote theft in detail. On the resolution, Ramesh said Rahul told the leaders that in the next month, there would be more expose of the magnitude of "mini-hydrogen, hydrogen, uranium and plutonium bombs".

Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said the party was into the third programme on the "vote chori" campaign of collecting 5 crore signatures by October 15, which would be handed over to the EC by October-end.

Commending Rahul for "boldly exposing" the "brazen attempts" to "subvert" democracy, the resolution said "vote chori" and "irregularities" in electoral rolls had "shaken public belief" in the very foundations of Indian democracy.

Attacking the BJP-RSS' "relentless attacks" on the Constitution and the Republic, it alleged that "social justice is being trampled upon" by routinely eroding reservations through rampant privatisation and refusal to fill vacancies, besides "widespread use of underhand tactics" like declaring candidates unsuitable.

Rahul vows law for extremely backward classes

PATNA, PTI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday reached out to the numerically powerful extremely backward classes (EBCs) of Bihar, promising, among other things, a law for protection against atrocities, on the lines of the SC/ST Act, if the INDIA bloc came to power in the state.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha addressed the 'Ati Pichhda Nyay Sankalp' (pledge for justice to extremely backward classes) symposium.

Gandhi unveiled 10 resolves (sankalp) for the benefit of the EBCs, who, according to the caste survey conducted by the Nitish Kumar government, comprise 36% of the state's total population.

TTV rejects BJP's reconciliation bid

CHENNAI, DHNS: The BJP's efforts to convince AMMK chief T T V Dhinakaran to reconsider his decision to quit the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) seem to have failed, at least for now.

Former TN BJP chief K Annamalai met V K Sasikala's nephew Dhinakaran for over an hour last week and stressed the need for anti-DMK forces to unite to defeat the ruling alliance in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

However, Dhinakaran is believed to have told Annamalai and other alliance leaders that it was difficult for him to reconsider his decision as long as AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami remained the NDA's chief-ministerial candidate.

Annamalai is understood to have told Dhinakaran to "remain patient" and not take any decision before December, when the Central BJP leadership is expected to turn its focus to TN after the Bihar Assembly polls.

BJP slams Rahul for claims on 'vote chori'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his claims of anomalies in India's electoral system, accusing him of 'maligning' the country's constitutional institutions.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala slammed Rahul Gandhi for 'painting a poor picture of India's robust electoral system' before foreign publications.

"Whenever Rahul Gandhi loses an election, he blames the EC. When he loses in court, he blames the judiciary. This is nothing but an attempt to erode faith in institutions," Poonawalla said.

He said Rahul Gandhi's stance was akin to the 'authoritarian style' of the Emergency era. "Rahul Gandhi carries the same mindset as Indira Gandhi, which is an Emergency mindset. Just as Indira Gandhi once subverted democracy to protect her family's rule, Rahul Gandhi believes in dynastic entitlement over constitutional democracy," he said.

Will not allow construction of mosque in Ayodhya: BJP leader

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Senior BJP leader Vinay Katiyar on Wednesday triggered a controversy after he said that the Dhannipur mosque would not be allowed in Ayodhya and that the Muslims should leave the district.

Katiyar, former president of Bajrang Dal, made the comment while speaking to reporters in Ayodhya. His comments came following rejection of the map of Dhannipur mosque by the local development authorities.

Katiyar, who has been a prominent face of the Ram Temple movement, said he did not attach any importance to the statements by some leaders that the mosque would be constructed at Dhannipur, near Ayodhya. "Ayodhya belongs to Lord Rama only....there is no use of a mosque here," he said.

Samajwadi Party (SP) MP from Ayodhya Awadhesh Prasad slammed Katiyar's remarks and said the BJP leader had lost his 'mental balance'. "Katiyar is a spent force...he has lost his mental balance," he said.

The Supreme Court had, while deciding the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Title suits, directed the state government to provide five acres of land to the Sunni Central Waqf Board outside the Ayodhya town for the construction of a mosque.

The government later allotted five acres of land near Dhannipur village.

The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation is overseeing the construction of the mosque. The construction work is yet to start as the map of the mosque was rejected by the Ayodhya Development Authority, citing violations of laws.

Some political analysts termed Katiyar's remarks as an attempt by him to make a comeback to electoral politics.

'Political calculations': BJP on CWC meet

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday criticised the Congress for organising the Working Committee meeting in Patna, and asked why the party was holding such an event there after 85 years.

BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said the Congress' renewed focus on the state was driven purely by political calculations.

"Why has the Congress suddenly 'remembered' Patna today ... 85 years after its CWC was last convened here? Is it not driven by political gains?" he questioned.

He alleged that the meeting was held since the Congress did not want to give up too many seats to the Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD.

"Their CWC meeting in Patna is purely motivated; the Congress feels that they can take the driving seat and demand more seats (from RJD)," Prasad said.

OLD GUARD, NEW STAKES

Azam Khan's return and SP's 2027 calculus

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Azam Khan

Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan's political course of action on his release after his long incarceration in multiple cases would be closely watched in the power corridors of Uttar Pradesh in the coming months, as key players revisit the drawing board to finalise their lineups for the state Assembly polls in 2027.

Coming out of Sitapur jail on Tuesday, he was asked to respond to speculations of him joining some other political outfit. "Can't comment on that. For now, I'm going to get a health check-up done," he said.

A founder member of the SP and a close aide of party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, Khan has been the Muslim face of the party since the early nineties. In the early days, his aggressive and rabble-rousing brand of politics helped the Samajwadi Party challenge the Congress' dominance in UP's minority politics.

Khan's influence extended well beyond his pocket borough, Rampur, in West UP, where he got the better of the scions of the Rampur Nawabs, by para-dropping actor Jaya Prada to defeat and ultimately sideline Begum Noor Bano, the wife of the last Nawab Mikki Mian, in local politics.

In lieu, Khan got plum portfolios. When Mulayam Singh passed on the baton to his son Akhilesh, who became the CM in 2012, Khan retained important ministries in the government. Over the years, as new and alternative political leadership emerged in the party, his influence has waned.

A hard bargainer, Azam Khan, however, has managed to extract a good bargain while dealing with the SP top brass. He got a Rajya Sabha nomination for his wife, Tanzeem Fatima, in 2014, and a ticket for his son, Abdullah Azam, to contest Assembly polls.

Azam's fortunes, however, spiralled further down with the BJP's ascension in state politics, as the Yogi Adityanath government pursued cases filed against him and his family in the past.

The Samajwadi Party, too, after suffering repeated electoral setbacks due to sharp communal polarisation, tempered its rhetoric by projecting conciliatory voices.

Ahead of the 2024 LS polls, party chief Akhilesh called on Khan before finalising tickets. Some recommendations, like Ruchira Veera from Moradabad, were nominated to contest.

But, from Rampur, Khan's last outpost, the SP fielded a relative greenhorn, Moulana Mohibullah. And despite opposition from the Azam Khan group, Mohibullah managed to reclaim the seat from the BJP by a comfortable margin.

In the past, Azam Khan has displayed his ability to damage the SP by breaking ranks. In 2008, he left the party in the face of a political rift with Mulayam Singh's aide, Amar Singh. Accusing the SP of compromising with the party's secular principles by aligning with former CM Kalyan Singh, Khan sat out of the 2009 LS polls that saw the SP's tally plummet by almost half of its previous strength.

Now in his late seventies, Azam Khan is out on bail after spending 23 months behind bars. What will be his game plan for the 2027 UP elections?

Curated by DH Brandspot

Another season of culinary delights to try at home

Cuisines of Karnataka, Season IV, coming in the festive season is an unmissable show of delicacies you would want to try at home and surprise your family and guests

Karnataka is known for its multicultural diversity. People from different regions have made the State their home and they have brought with them a taste of different regions of India. Karnataka offers cuisine from every part of the country that's relished by all. Even within the State, there is a wide variety to choose from. From coastal Karnataka to the northern parts and the interiors, every city, town and village seem to have their own specialities that promise to tickle tastebuds.

Sumptuous soirees

Every delicacy needs to be meticulous prepared and it's garnishing should be attractive. It all adds up to make for a dish that is as good to look at as it is to savour.

Cuisines of Karnataka, Season IV, an initiative by Prajavani and Deccan Herald, brings you another 15 delicacies you cannot miss this festival season. This edition is presented by Freedom Health Cooking Oils with Indane as LPG Partner, TTK Prestige as Kitchen Partner, Bhima Jewellers as Special Partner and Lays as Snacks Partner. SBI Card, Vencobb Chicken and Eco Crystal Water Treatment are Associate Partners.

In this edition, chefs Aadharsh Tatpati, Sihi Kahi Chandru and Muralidhar showcase five specially chosen delicacies each.

Aadharsh Tatpati comes up with Kollegala Mutton Nalli Pulao, Kanakpura-style Hole Meenu Saaru, Raichur Tuntapur Koli Kaddi, Batani Kurma and Kadle Manoli Sukka Masala (Mangaluru style) in a series of videos that promise to captivate you. Sihi Kahi Chandru presents five videos showing off is culinary skills with Halasina Mulka, Southekayi Muddipalya, Hithkida Avarebele Melogra, Hurgadle Nippattu and Bonda Soup. Muralidhar has five tantalising videos of how Chikpete Kaal Soup, Street Keema Vade, Bachelor Quick Mutton Fry, Mysuru White Chicken Pulao and Naati Koli Bassaru are made.

Beyond the masala

A unique aspect of Cuisines of Karnataka has been the tales the chefs narrate. Every dish has a history to it and some anecdotes associated with it. The chefs bring out the nuances of these delicacies as they demonstrate their preparation with the stories behind them. Wouldn't you enjoy it more if you knew the history behind it?

Meet your chefs

Sihi Kahi Chandru
A Chandrashekar, popularly known as Sihi Kahi Chandru, is a theatre, television and film personality. He has produced over 40 theatre productions, over 50 TV serials and a host of documentaries, ad films and short films. Among his many talents is his culinary expertise. He delights in presenting delicacies in his signature style.

Aadharsh Tatpati
With over 18 years in the hospitality industry as an executive chef, he brings his rich experience to the cooktop. Aadharsh has worked in Germany, UK and Italy. He hosts many popular shows on TV displaying his culinary skills. He owns a food processing and manufacturing company.

Muralidhar
A popular television host in the Kannada entertainment industry, he rose to fame with his successful cooking show, Oggarane Dabbi. He runs a popular YouTube channel 'Suchi Kichi With Murali' along with his wife Suchitra. He rose to fame with a show dedicated to non-vegetarian dishes showcasing his culinary expertise.

LPG Partner: Indane | Kitchen Partner: Prestige | Special Partner: BHIMA | Snacks Partner: Lay's | Associate Sponsors: SBI card, Vencobb, eco crystal WATER TREATMENT

To catch the cooking action, scan this QR code

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Time to quash criminal defamation

The Supreme Court's suggestion to decriminalise India's defamation law adds credence to a demand voiced for a long time. Its observation implies that criminal defamation is unjust and is being used as a tool to intimidate and harass people over extended periods of time. While making the observation, Justice MM Sundresh – leading the bench with Justice Satish Chandra Sharma – also expressed concern over the pendency of defamation cases. The Court was hearing a petition filed by the Foundation for Independent Journalism, which runs a news portal, challenging a summons notice issued in connection with a defamation case arising from an article published in 2016. The apex court upheld criminal defamation as constitutional in a 2016 ruling that cited the need for protection of reputation under Article 21. Defamation was a criminal offence under sections 499 and 500 of the IPC. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has retained the provisions under Section 356.

Criminal defamation is being increasingly used to harass people, especially public personalities such as political leaders, by dragging them to courts and keeping alive the threat of jail alive. The provision has been weaponised to curb free speech – Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been one of the many at the receiving end. The law has also been used to target journalists and media organisations, directly attacking the freedom of expression. Cases are filed from multiple locations and since they involve criminal charges, the accused persons have to make a personal appearance in courts. Detention before trial is a possibility and the trial, when it happens, can stretch over a long time. Since truth is not defence in such cases, the accused has to prove that the charge was made in public interest. By design, the provision works against the accused and violates the basic principles of justice and constitutional rights. It is a colonial legacy and is undemocratic. The Supreme Court's counsel of caution to the lower courts on dealing with such cases has not worked.

The provision conflicts with constitutional rights and has been weaponised against free speech

There are enough provisions and processes in law that protect the reputation of individuals and organisations, without having to resort to criminal prosecution. Civil procedures that offer relief in the form of damages and other measures provide adequate cover. They protect the right to reputation and at the same time, the right to free speech. Many democratic countries have done away with criminal defamation in their laws. The Supreme Court, with its latest observation, has indicated that India is ready for the shift too.

False start: Educate, then enumerate

The Social and Educational Survey, launched in Karnataka with much anticipation, encountered trouble on its very first day. Enumerators across the state faced technical glitches, administrative hurdles, and training gaps. Apps refused to download, servers crashed, OTPs never arrived, and in many districts, the process could not even begin. These are not minor hiccups; they point to poor planning and inadequate preparation for a massive exercise meant to cover two crore households with the help of nearly two lakh enumerators. A survey of this magnitude cannot be reduced to a hurried exercise. The government should have conducted extensive pilot testing of its app and systems across urban and rural geographies before rollout. Equally critical was the training of enumerators, many of them schoolteachers, who were left confused on day one. For a project expected to cost over Rs 400 crore, the least the state could ensure was a smoother start.

But technology is only part of the problem. There is also a deep public misunderstanding about the survey itself. Despite repeated clarifications, many believe it is a 'caste census'. Caste is only one by-product of the larger objective: identifying the social and educational backwardness of communities, and evaluating whether state benefits have reached them. Yet, misinformation thrives. Some Lingayat leaders have advised their community members to register their religion as 'others'. In Kodagu, confusion lingers over whether people should mark themselves as Kodavas or Hindus. Such misgivings persist even after the Backward Classes Commission chairman Madhusudhan Naik made it clear that religion will not be considered as a factor.

Tech glitches can be fixed. What about misgivings on the survey's purpose?

The government must accept responsibility for failing to communicate the purpose of the survey effectively. Educating MLAs and local leaders should have been the first step. Instead, political interests and competing narratives have created a fertile ground for distortion. A mass media campaign and direct community outreach are urgently needed to dispel rumours. The stakes are high. Upper caste groups, who opposed the Jayaprakash Hegde report, are once again waiting for an excuse to derail this survey. Their resistance is not incidental: it is rooted in retaining their social dominance and political hegemony. The government cannot afford to hand them easy victories at the cost of the state's marginalised communities. Having already spent enormous sums, it must extend the survey deadline, allow time for corrections, and conduct the exercise scientifically. This survey is not about prestige but about justice. Karnataka owes its backward communities credible data that can guide equitable state policy. For that to happen, the government must pause, correct course, and proceed with clarity and courage.

A NECESSARY PROFESSION

Truth in the times of darkness

Authoritarianism and misinformation are threatening democracy. Journalism is the last line of defence

FERNANDO BELZUNCE

We live in times characterised by misinformation, yet many people are still unaware of what this entails. The context is one of confusion and mistrust, where, in addition, the transformations we are seeing are so rapid and so far-reaching that it is almost impossible to assimilate them or gauge their consequences. This widespread bewilderment is being generated in a social climate of extreme polarisation, where powerful political forces, skilled at manipulating emotions, are capable of causing enormous instability through social media.

The proliferation of false information and the infodemic, that overwhelming and disorienting information overload, contribute significantly to this sense of fragility. For all these reasons, and because of the events we are witnessing, one has the uneasy feeling that perhaps we are not experiencing an era of change but rather a change of era.

Contributing to this global climate of vulnerability is the successful expansion of illiberal political currents across dozens of countries, which make use of democracy itself to promote anti-democratic agendas. The politicians involved are clearly following a shared playbook, inspired by the world's most powerful man, who has globalised this strategy of misinformation. A leader democratically elected, just four years after his supporters staged an uprising against an election result. An insurrection that had seemed inconceivable in the United States, and which, a year later, as proof of the universal nature of this movement, was replicated in Brazil.

Populist and autocratic tendencies are influencing the new radical politicians and even those belonging to parties previously known for their moderation. This is happening in Hungary, Poland, Israel, the Philippines, Turkey, El Salvador, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, France, and Italy. Hence, the emergence of influencer-style leaders of this new doctrine cultivated on social media, the breeding ground for ruthless attacks against those who think differently, as well as the constant questioning of institutions, elected to represent the popular will, and yet surprisingly accused of being enemies of the people. Attacks on the justice system, for example, are frenzied. Likewise, the brutal smear campaign against the media and the attacks on many of its professionals, carried out with startling impunity.

All of this is happening simultaneously in many liberal societies. Is it really just a coincidence?

We are immersed in these dark times that, in the future, will be the subject of study. The impact of major technological trends on journalism and democracies is huge, and it seems clear that this new, turbulent environment encourages misinformation and weakens media firms. Most of the world's media outlets fell into crisis years ago, while multinational technology companies have achieved total market values exceeding the GDP of countries such as France, Spain, or Italy. Millions of people spend hours every day on social media platforms based on a business model that rewards lies and sensationalism driven by algorithms. They are an open field for the dissemination of fake news and spin, as well as for the consolidation of polarisation and hatred.

Democracy is so ingrained in liberal societies that it appears to be safe from harm, which leads to a dangerous complacency as it lowers its guard. But widespread geopolitical disorientation, together with unpredictable leadership and disregard for various international organisations, is shaking the very foundations of a universal system of values that has been accepted and respected for decades. We take it for granted that, despite the criticism and the attacks, democracy will always endure, even though, as history shows, this is not necessarily the case.

AI and the new reality

This is demonstrated by recent events that previously would have seemed unthinkable, such as one sovereign country invading another in Europe, or a civilian population being subjected to a humanitarian catastrophe in the Middle East. It is not security that is at stake in this predicament. Nor is it the economy. Nor immigration. Nor identity. It is democracy. Because this is about democracy. And it is also about journalism, which is the profession that serves democracy and all citizens, and that is why it is the target of this global offensive.

Today, as we celebrate World News Day, seems the perfect time to remember the value and significance of journalism. A flawed profession, its practitioners being people, it is the best system we know for providing societies access to professional, fact-based, accurate information that allows them to make decisions freely. As simple as it is significant. It is an activity that also keeps a watchful eye on governments, companies, and institutions, promoting plurality by offering different points of view and serving as a mouthpiece for people and causes that would otherwise be forgotten. A tough, beautiful, and necessary job.

Perhaps now more than ever. Because now that we know AI is going to transform our perception of reality forever and will undoubtedly contribute to the spread of misinformation, we want there to be people who are professionally dedicated to a craft based on verifying information, checking data, documenting facts, and travelling to the places where events are taking place to witness what is really happening there. Because without journalism, there is no democracy. And without democracy, darkness descends.

(The writer serves as Executive Editorial Director of the Spanish media group Vocento and is the author of the book Journalists in Times of Darkness*)*

(DH is part of the global initiative to mark World News Day on September 28, and this article is the third in a series that will be published as part of this initiative)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

In nature's time

From scorching summers to redwoods, there are quiet lessons in patience

VIKRAM VISWANATHAN

Living in Riyadh, we've just emerged from the peak of summer, where temperatures soar to nearly 50°C, making outdoor activity nearly impossible. As September arrives, the weather begins to ease, but the real winter arrives only by mid-November. I have lived in the Middle East now for more than 15 years and by all means should have been acclimatised. Yet, the impatient part of me wonders year after year—why couldn't summer disappear a bit earlier and winter come in a bit sooner?

Then I paused to reflect. Nature doesn't rush. It moves in slow cycles, indifferent to our impatience, yet full of wisdom for those who observe. The transition from summer to winter doesn't happen overnight; it unfolds gradually, minute by minute, day by day. And in that quiet persistence lies a profound lesson. A number of times we feel like a particular month or a year or even a single day is a drag, yet decades pass by in a blink of an eye, and therein lies the amazing paradox of nature.

Often, when we're stuck in difficult phases, we act hastily, trying to force change. If that does not happen, we consult an astrologer who suggests a solution which often coincides with a turn in the cycle for the better! But just like the seasons, life also moves in cycles.

Few experiences teach you more about life's highs and lows than cycling through mountainous terrain. I was a cyclist and experienced it firsthand. The upwards sloping road is a drag, while the downward sloping one is a breeze. And this repeats in cycles over a long cycling route, pretty much like the undulations we face in real life. With patience and equanimity, even the harshest periods pass, giving way to renewal.

Take the amazing case of the giant redwood tree native to California. They are the largest trees in the world and native to groves of the Sierra Nevada mountain range of California. Some of these trees live for more than four thousand years. During a recent visit to a museum in Washington, I stood in awe before the massive trunk of one such tree, which was around three thousand years old. These trees grow slowly over a number of years, reaching majestic heights and growing massively in width. Contrast that with our desire to double our money in three months. While that may be unrealistic, what is possible is multiplying wealth manyfold—if we have the discipline to wait it out for a long time and resist the urge to tamper with our investments in moments of market volatility anxiety.

Nature teaches us that enduring growth is never rushed. It's cultivated with patience, resilience, and time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Without genuine accountability, Bengaluru will continue to suffer

Apropos 'Bengaluru must not settle for mediocrity' (Sep 24), Bengaluru, India's so-called Silicon Valley, continues to suffer from crumbling roads, potholes, and crippling waterlogging every monsoon, yet the crisis remains unresolved. Instead of devising long-term solutions, political parties waste time in blame games, attacking whichever party holds power while conveniently forgetting their own failures when in office. This cycle of accusations achieves nothing for citizens who risk their lives everyday, navigating inundated streets, broken roads, and collapsing civic infrastructure. Experts have repeatedly flagged poor planning, unregulated urbanisation, and insufficient drainage systems as root causes. Without genuine accountability, lasting solutions will remain distant dreams.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

May her tribe increase

The fact that Banu Mushtaq observed all rituals at the Chamundi Hill temple while inaugurating *Nadahabba* Dasara speaks volumes about her inherent respect for human values, rising above religious perspectives. Her gesture must be seen as a unique harbinger of profound change in cementing brotherly relationships between both Hindu and Muslim communities. She is a woman of conviction with sterling qualities and believes in her ability, having weathered many challenges. May her tribe increase.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Quality over quantity

Apropos 'Railways to run 12,000 festival special trains from Oct 1' (Sep 24), the decision to operate 12,000 special trains for the festive season is welcome. However, increasing the number of trains alone will not solve the problem unless punctuality, cleanliness, and crowd management are taken seriously. The Railways should focus on matching quantity with quality, making travel during Diwali and Chhath Puja less stressful and more festive.

Kasak Jain, Bengaluru

Nurture children

This refers to 'Runaway kids seek work, break from family disputes' (Sep 24). When children feel like home is a workplace and feel distant from their parents, lacking a sense of calmness, fun, love, and care, it's often a sign of parental failure to provide adequate love and affection. A happy family is not about expensive possessions but about the love, care, and support family members show each other. When children receive support and care from their parents, they stay attached and long for them in their absence. However, when parents prioritise material possessions over family time, children may feel ignored, and uncomfortable. To prevent children from running away from home, parents must ensure they pay the required attention to their children, fostering a nurturing environment that promotes emotional well-being.

Albert Thanggoulal Haokip, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi only talks and does not take any action. 'Nepokid' Rahul Gandhi talks about EBC. But Rajiv Gandhi opposed reservations.

Sambit Patra, BJP Spokesperson

Everybody is against nepotism until it is their turn.

Shon Mehta

TO BE PRECISE

Pothole repair work

IN PERSPECTIVE

A tariff test on shrimp trade

India's shrimp exports are under stress. Reforms must help find non-US markets, protect coastal livelihoods

SASHIKANTA KHUNTIA AND GOURISHANKAR S HIREMATH

While India is preparing to deal with the disruptions in steel, textiles, and pharmaceuticals being imposed by the Trump administration, a quiet yet potentially deeper casualty lies in fisheries, which needs equal attention. On August 27, the United States imposed a reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, lifting the headline duty on many exports to 50%. When combined with existing anti-dumping and countervailing duties on frozen shrimp (about 2.5% and 5.8%), the effective levy on Indian shrimp shipments now exceeds 58%.

The US is India's largest market for frozen shrimp – it imported 311,948 tonnes worth $2.68 billion in 2024-25, almost half of India's total shrimp exports. Such a steep tariff shock risks an immediate fall in shipments and a sharp squeeze on coastal livelihoods. Shrimp is the backbone of India's seafood trade, contributing $5.17 billion, or nearly 70% of total seafood export earnings, last year. Overall, India exported $7.45 billion worth of marine products, with the US accounting for over a third. This concentration now looks like a vulnerability.

Industry analysts, including Crisil, expect shrimp exports to fall by 15-18% this fiscal. A significant tariff disparity may force the US buyers to shift to competitors such as Vietnam and Ecuador, which enjoy a tariff advantage due to lower duties. Additionally, as per the joint statement, China, placed on the protective side by its temporary trade accommodation until November with Washington, could edge into India's share if such deals become permanent.

Seafood exports are broadly grouped as captured and cultured, and shrimp is the principal constituent of the latter. The tariff strain is more visible in India's aquaculture hubs, such as Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh, which accounts for nearly three-fourths of national output, is showing signs of strain as exporters scale back shipments. In Odisha, shrimp exports of about $170 million last year came mainly from small and medium farmers. Since many rely on leased land and bank finance, even a modest dip in exports could push them into debt stress.

The aggregate numbers conceal fragile livelihoods. India's fisheries and aquaculture sector supports 14-16 million people, and shrimp aquaculture is its most labour-intensive segment. Processing plants in coastal hubs employ thousands of women who are staring at the loss of their livelihood in peeling and grading. For nearly half a million shrimp farmers across the eastern and southern seaboard, as well as for allied entrepreneurs in feed, medicines, and machinery, Washington's tariff decisions translate into reduced pond stockings, shrinking margins, and mounting anxiety. The impact is felt locally on pay packets, loan repayments, and food security.

Structural changes

The immediate priority is to prevent a collapse of production capacity. During COVID-19, India had offered liquidity support, credit guarantees, and loan rollovers to keep MSMEs alive until demand returned. A similar targeted package, including concessional credit, interest subvention, and transitional income support for shrimp growers, can cushion the blow. Export credit guarantees and short-term relief through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) could keep smaller farms and processors from shutting down. Extension of MNREGA support for women labourers would ease household pressure. Such transitory support can be seen as an investment in resilience.

The current external shock necessitates the strategy of building resilience by furthering structural reforms in India's blue sector. While negotiating tariff relief or exclusions with the US is one route, diversification is essential as a long-term strategy. The European Union, Japan, and West Asia are promising markets that require sustained trade promotion. At home, domestic demand for shrimp can be expanded through nutrition schemes, institutional procurement, and support for value-added products. The domestic policy framework has also begun to move in a supportive direction. The recent GST rate cut on fish oils, fish extracts, and prepared or preserved fish and shrimp products from 12% to 5% is a step in the right direction and complements the broader effort to strengthen resilience in the blue economy.

Cluster-based farming with improved hatcheries, better feed, and stronger disease control can lower costs. Investment in cold chains, storage, and port logistics will improve competitiveness.

India's blue economy, long hailed as a growth frontier, now faces a stress test. Tariff turbulence has made clear that resilience cannot mean waiting out the storm. It must mean immediate cushioning for vulnerable farmers and workers, coupled with structural reforms. The short-term and long-term reforms will make Indian aquaculture more competitive and less dependent on any single market. The road will take time, but resilience must mean reform, which is due.

(Sashikanta is a faculty member of rural management at XIM University; Gourishankar teaches economics at IIT Kharagpur)

An untested star, old rivals, and a four-way fight in Tamil Nadu 2026

DATELINE Chennai

E T B SIVAPRIYAN

Elections to the Tamil Nadu Assembly, due in April-May 2026, will be a defining moment for the state in more ways than one. For the first time in decades, Tamil Nadu will see the entry of a popular actor at the peak of his film career into politics.

Vijay, who commands a massive fan base that cuts across party lines, has already disrupted the state's political landscape by launching the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK). His move has prompted the Dravidian majors – the DMK and AIADMK, which have alternatively ruled the state since 1967 -- to begin their election preparations at least 10 months in advance.

The 2026 elections will also likely be remembered for producing, for the first time in many years, an intense four-cornered contest, keeping every player on edge.

The contest will be between the ruling DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA), the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a possible coalition led by Vijay's TVK, and the Tamil nationalist party Naam Tamizhar Katchi (NTK), which always contests alone.

Vijay's entry is being closely watched, since no film star has succeeded in Tamil Nadu politics after M G Ramachandran and his protégé J Jayalalithaa in the 1970s and 1980s, respectively.

Even legends like Sivaji Ganesan and Kamal Hassan failed to turn their onscreen popularity into votes, while Vijayakant was the only actor who achieved moderate success in politics. He briefly unsettled the state's bipolar politics, but his party faltered after allying with the AIADMK in 2011.

The DMK, under Chief Minister M K Stalin, believes it has a strong chance of scripting history by retaining power for the first time since 1971. If achieved, the feat would place Stalin in the league of K Kamaraj, MGR, and Jayalalithaa as leaders who returned to Fort St George, the seat of power of the Tamil Nadu government, for a successive term. A defeat, however, would be a setback, jeopardising the party's plans to elevate Stalin's son Udhayanidhi within both the party and the government.

For the AIADMK, the 2026 polls are nothing short of a do-or-die battle. Having suffered defeat in every election held since Jayalalithaa's death in 2016, the party is under relentless pressure to stage a comeback.

Adding to its woes is Vijay aggressively projecting himself as the primary anti-DMK voice and by NDA allies such as T T V Dhinakaran and O Panneerselvam leaving the alliance, blaming Edappadi K Palaniswami.

A loss would sharpen doubts about Palaniswami's hold on leadership, especially with the Bharatiya Janata Party and Vijay poised to challenge AIADMK's dominance. If OPS and TTV join Vijay, their influence over Thevar votes in southern Tamil Nadu could significantly boost his prospects.

Sensing the danger, the AIADMK reportedly approached Vijay for an alliance. However, the actor made it clear that his TVK would only ally with parties willing to accept him as the chief ministerial candidate.

Though TVK has yet to build a robust organisational base at the booth level, and Vijay's speeches have been criticised as lacking concrete solutions for problems plaguing the state, his entry has already forced the Dravidian majors to recalibrate. His district-wise tours are drawing huge crowds and constant television coverage.

One reason both DMK and AIADMK take Vijay seriously is that internal surveys put TVK's support at no less than 15%, and higher in some regions. Vijay, seeking to revive the MGR magic, has been eyeing the anti-DMK vote, which has always gone *en masse* to the AIADMK since its founding in 1972. Vijay has also pitched the 2026 battle as one between TVK and DMK.

Political observers believe Vijay is likely to dent the vote share of almost every party, though the extent of damage remains uncertain. While the split in anti-government votes might help the DMK, the perceived split of the minority votes, which went *en masse* to the DMK in 2019, 2021, and 2024, could prove costly for the DMK. Vijay is a Christian.

The fourth player, Seeman's Naam Tamizhar Katchi (NTK), continues to strengthen -- growing from a 1% vote share in 2016 to 8% in 2024. Though not strong enough to win alone, NTK can split the anti-government vote, potentially spoiling AIADMK and TVK's chances.

"Vijay contesting alone and splitting the anti-DMK and anti-government votes will undoubtedly help the DMK," senior journalist R Bhagwan Singh told *DH*. Prof Ramu Mannivannan, former professor of political science at the University of Madras, concurred with Singh, saying Vijay will split votes of the opposition more than the DMK.

"We have to wait to see how his party performs. Much depends on how Vijay emerges and sounds politically close to the elections," Mannivannan added.

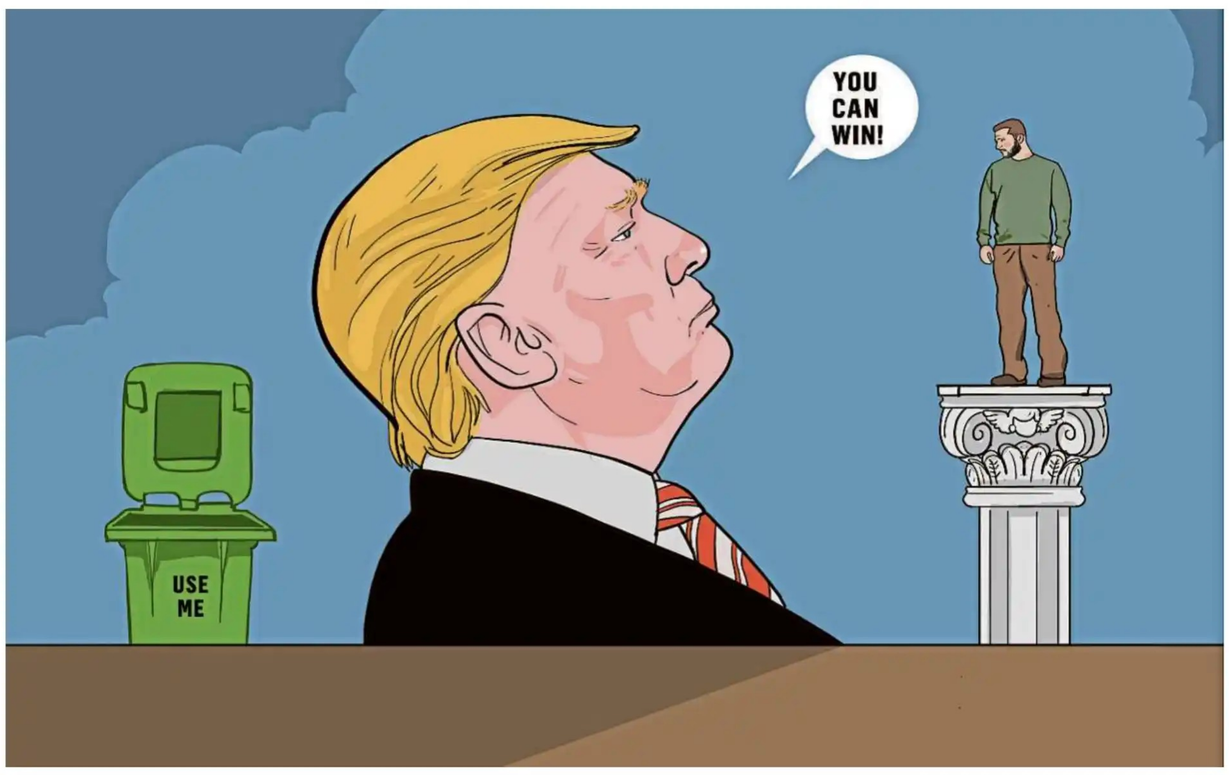
Singh described the 2026 elections as the most unpredictable and complex in recent times due to the entry of the "untested" Vijay. "He draws huge crowds and makes bold claims. While rivals criticise his speeches, the actor believes his fan base will translate into votes," he said.

Prof Mannivannan said the four-cornered contest in Tamil Nadu will not be merely interesting but will certainly choke BJP's attempts to make inroads into Tamil Nadu.

"Vijay is currently giving mixed signals, and it remains to be seen how he will channel new voters. If Vijay shows the stamina of a true-blue politician and waits for his turn, he might emerge as a force to reckon with," he added.

DHNS

President Donald Trump's pivot could give him room to distance himself from a conflict that he once promised to solve in days or weeks



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

In a sudden shift, Trump says Ukraine can win the war

DAVID E SANGER

President Donald Trump reversed himself on one of the key foreign policy issues of his presidency Tuesday, abandoning his insistence that Ukraine give up land to strike a peace deal with Russia and instead declaring that Ukraine, with the support of Europe, was "in a position to fight and WIN all of Ukraine back in its original form."

His turnabout on social media shortly after a meeting in New York with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine was a head-spinning pivot. After his three-hour meeting with Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, in Alaska more than five weeks ago, he insisted that Zelenskyy would have to face reality and make a deal, giving up territory to its larger and stronger neighbour.

Trump provided no rationale for his stunning turnaround, though several European officials suspected that by distancing himself from the war, the president was washing his hands of a conflict that he once promised to solve in days or weeks. In his eight months in office, Trump has ricocheted from one position to another on Ukraine.

In February, he slammed Zelenskyy for insisting on America's aid, yelling at him in the Oval Office, "You don't have the cards." In the spring, he cultivated Putin, exempting him from tariffs. This summer, he rolled out a red carpet for him in Alaska.

Now he sounded as if he was siding anew with Ukraine while also taking something of a back seat, ending with the words, "I wish both Countries well."

Hours after he declared Ukraine could "win" over the Russians, perhaps even taking land beyond its own boundaries, he was contradicted by his own secretary of state and acting national security adviser, Marco Rubio. Rubio said the war in Ukraine "cannot end militarily" and predicted "it will end at the negotiating table," reflecting Trump's previous position.

In Alaska, Trump had taken a similar position, even promising to meet with the two adversaries together to hammer out an agreement. He had rejected the idea of pressing Putin for a ceasefire, declaring that a full peace accord would be more permanent.

With Rubio, Trump was even in discussions with European allies about creating some kind of post-peace accord security force for Ukraine, one that he said could include US air support, to protect a "no-fly zone" over Ukraine.

But on Tuesday, after his nearly hour-long speech to the United Nations in which he only briefly touched on the Ukraine conflict that has consumed American national security officials since the Russian invasion in February 2022, Trump dispensed with that strategy.

Clearly frustrated with Putin, who embarrassed him by never executing on the peace negotiations that Trump insisted they had agreed upon, Trump wrote a long post on Russia's economic and strategic difficulties. "Russia has been fighting aimlessly for three and a half years a War that should have taken a Real Military Power less than a week to win," he said, using his distinctive capitalisation. "This is not distinguishing Russia."

He added that Putin's forces were a "paper tiger" — the reverse of how he had described the nuclear armed nation before. He also wrote about gasoline lines and the vast amounts of money being spent by Russia on the war. "Putin and Russia are in BIG economic trouble," he said.

But all of that was true before the meeting in Alaska. And Trump never explained why he now believed that Ukraine, which has continuously lost modest amounts of territory to Russian troops over the past year, would suddenly be able to seize it back.

As one senior NATO military officer in New York for the United Nations meetings noted, Ukraine was not able to gain ground when US aid to the country was at a peak, and the Russians had not massed a larger force.

Nor did Trump offer to restore the tens of billions of dollars in US military aid, saying simply, "We will continue to supply weapons to NATO for NATO to do what they want with them."

While Trump's statement made it sound like the United States and NATO operate with their own rationale, the reality is more complicated. NATO military forces are commanded by an American general who also has the title Supreme Allied Commander Europe, a post currently held by Gen. Alexus G Grynkewich.

But the decisions about how much to spend on arming Ukraine will be influenced heavily by the largest European powers in the NATO alliance — led by Britain, France and Germany — and the secretary-general of NATO, Mark Rutte.

Zelenskyy, speaking at the United Nations, decided his best strategy was to welcome the news and praise Trump, with whom he had the famous on-camera blowup in February. At that time, Trump and Vice President J D Vance had yelled at him for not being sufficiently grateful to the United States. Now, Zelenskyy said of Trump, "I think that he is more close now to the situation."

Speaking in English to reporters, Zelenskyy called Trump a "game-changer."

It may be months before it is clear whether Trump's declaration amounts to a game-changer, and for which side in the brutal conflict. And there are scenarios in which the United States could still be drawn into the conflict.

For example, Trump on Tuesday said that NATO countries had the right to shoot down Russian military aircraft that enter their airspace. In Estonia last week, Russian fighter jets spent 12 minutes over the tiny country. Days before, Russian drones flew deep into Poland, an event Trump quickly suggested may have been a "mistake," only to be contradicted by President Emmanuel Macron of France.

But when Trump was pressed by reporters on whether he would back up his allies if they found themselves in an air war over NATO territory, he said it "depends on the circumstances."

One of the many unknowns now is how Putin will react to Trump's shift. He had clearly calculated, after the Alaska meeting, that the president had no stomach for a continued conflict, and no interest in donating billions more to the Ukrainian cause or letting American soldiers join a NATO peacekeeping force.

So he may take solace in Trump's pullback, even if the American president is ultimately expressing some support for Ukraine. Or Putin may decide to amplify his attacks and his threats, figuring that time and mass will favour Russia.

More military aid

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine addressed the UN after Trump said Ukraine could reclaim all territory lost in the war, an apparent U-turn in his view of the conflict, which is in its fourth year. The Ukrainian leader delivered his speech as tensions between Europe and Russia are high, after Russian fighter jets and drones entered the airspace of Romania, Poland and Estonia, three NATO members.

Zelenskyy appealed for more military aid to keep fighting Russia in his speech on Wednesday. His call to arms, accompanied by warnings that the world was entering a new era in military technology, came a day after President Trump signalled renewed backing for Kyiv in its war with Russia. Zelenskyy stressed the need for more weapons even as he warned that they were evolving in ways that now endanger all nations. Drones might one day allow terrorists or states to deliver a nuclear device, he said, adding that the unchecked rise of artificial intelligence was creating new dangers.

"We are now living through the most destructive arms race in human history," Zelenskyy said.

The New York Times

Reset ties with Africa

GURJIT SINGH

India's Africa policy is showing clear signs of renewed momentum. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Ghana and Namibia, *en route* to and from the BRICS Summit, presented a well-calibrated opportunity to re-engage with long-standing partners in West and Southern Africa.

A major outreach by Ministry of External Affairs Secretary Dammu Ravi successfully reconnected India with the African Union Commission (AUC), elected in February 2025. A promising sign is the appointment of Muhammad Ali Yusuf, ex-Djibouti Foreign Minister, as AUC Chair. His familiarity with India's cooperation framework bodes well for future engagement.

The visit of the President of Angola, who currently chairs the AU, in May 2025 was instrumental in reinvigorating India-AU engagement. Angola, along with Namibia and Ghana, acknowledge the value of India's partnership.

Parallelly, India's parliamentary delegations visited seven African countries—Algeria, Egypt, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and South Africa—soon after Operation Sindoor. A delegation also met with the AUC, where the warmth they encountered added momentum to India's Africa outreach.

India's successful advocacy for the AU's permanent membership in the G20 has created a fresh opportunity to re-anchor its engagement with the organisation. The most logical platform for this is the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV), which could serve as a strategic pivot for a reinvigorated partnership. Optimism is building that the long-delayed summi--last held in 2015--will finally resume. The main challenge lies in aligning with the AU's busy calendar, which includes TICAD IX in August, the EU–Africa Summit in November, and Turkey–Africa in 2026

Structurally, a revived IAFS may benefit from returning to its original Banjul Formula, which brought together five NEPAD founding countries (Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, and Algeria) and the eight chairs of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (RECs). While the 2015 summit was notable for inviting all 54 African nations, a smaller but more representative group this time may enable sharper dialogue and deliverables.

Under the current REC configuration, likely invitees could include leaders from Kenya (EAC), Equatorial Guinea (ECCAS), Libya (AMU), Chad (CENSAD), Djibouti (IGAD), Egypt (COMESA), Nigeria (ECOWAS), and Madagascar (SADC). Should Addis Ababa be chosen as the venue, honouring Africa's turn to host, inviting Ethiopia's PM would be appropriate, ensuring representation of all African BRICS members.

Africa now holds a rising place in India's foreign policy. Bilateral trade reached $100 billion in 2024–2025, with Indian exports exceeding $45 billion. The African Continental Free Trading Ares (AfCFTA) offers new possibilities for continent-wide supply chains, regional manufacturing hubs, and trilateral ventures with partners. India's FDI stock in Africa stood at $75 billion by 2022, with that year alone seeing a record $22 billion in fresh investments by Indian companies.

Going forward, India needs a new economic strategy for Africa. The extant approach, driven by concessional lines of credit and grants, has run its course. Many African governments now prefer FDI and public-private partnerships that do not exacerbate sovereign debt vulnerabilities.

One option is to launch an India Development Initiative, anchored in the MEA with support from ministries, industry, academia, and venture capital. This would promote an FDI-first cooperation model targeting SMEs and Indian firms active in Africa. The decade-long Sankalp Africa Summits in Nairobi exemplify success by catalysing private investment for SDGs. Recently, its parent, Aavishkaar Fund, secured $40 million from JICA to strengthen Africa-India supply chains.

Support mechanisms could include new bilateral investment treaties, double taxation avoidance agreements, and buyback deals (like pulses from Tanzania and Mozambique). Indian banks in Africa would also benefit from subsidised credit lines and risk guarantees, enabling them to offer competitive lending terms to Indian investors. The proposed initiative could create a Revolving Consulting Fund for feasibility studies and DPRs of African projects, reimbursed upon securing financing. This would help Indian firms build viable project pipelines and access the Africa Investment Forum's $1 trillion project opportunities.

India's mixed record with AU- and REC-level grant projects has led to a preference for bilateral implementation. A reimagined IAFS, however, could enable dialogue on global economic, climate, and governance trends shaping India–Africa cooperation. A Track 1.5 Forum with the AU could address climate, terrorism, HADR, agriculture, and security, embedding the Indian model in African policy. The AU Commission's recent visit to the CDRI reflects this approach.

(*The writer has served as India's ambassador to Germany, Indonesia, and Ethiopia and is the author of* The Harambee Factor: India and Africa Partnership)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Six eminent Kannada litterateurs honoured

Bangalore, Sept 24
Six eminent litterateurs of Karnataka received the 1975 awards of the Karnataka State Sahitya Academy at a function here today. They were: Smt. H. V. Savithramma, Dr. N. Anantharangachar, Mr. R. B. Kulkarni ("Rao Bahadur"), Mr. H. Deveerappa, Mr. L. Gundappa and Mr. Mayigowda. Presenting the awards, Governor Mohanlal Sukhadia said very few literary works of a perennial interest and universal appeal were coming out these days, unlike in the past.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Crop failures made them sell their kidneys

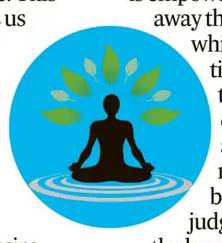
Bangalore, Sept 24
The plight of these three farmers is just an example of what is happening to a large number of farmers in our country. The three farmers suffered successive crop failures due to spurious seeds and incurred heavy debts. The only way they could keep moneylenders at bay was by selling their kidneys for Rs 40,000 each. The tragic tale of D P Venkata Reddy, P Krishna Reddy and Poli Reddy of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, who are the farmers with only one kidney each, came to light today.

OASIS | JAMUNA RAO

Remaining humane in a divided world

As the world becomes more polarised, violence, hatred, and uncertainty become the norm. In such an atmosphere is it possible to have an open mind and remain humane? Difficult as this may seem, it is perhaps necessary for both physical and mental well-being.

Staying away from polarising issues is itself a judgement on the relevance of these concerns. Such an action only ends up making the mind judgemental, analysing everything. Suspicion takes over, and life could become filled with distrust. While caution is necessary and one must pay heed to intuition and even negative signals, there must be an awareness of the dangers of avoiding issues that polarise us. Turning a blind eye to these issues could also make us blind to odd instances of goodness that they can sometimes generate. This kind of insensitivity insulates us from the innate desire to be sympathetic, trustful and compassionate. These are the very things which make the mind resilient and bestow the ability to endure stress.



While the desire to be appreciated is natural, the desire to appreciate is equally natural. It is the basis for all awe and curiosity. It goes beyond compliments and is an experience which has the power to cleanse hatred. It enables one to understand other points of view. Such a perspective, which accommodates other opinions, is empowering. The inclusiveness takes away the sense of powerlessness which is the root cause of irritation, anger and resentment towards those who are different. When these negatives are under control, there is more time for reflection. The brain moves away from being judgemental, thereby reducing the burden of overthinking. The non-judgmental mind is also less likely to be tempted by the convenience of playing the blame game.

It is only the reflective mind which has a chance of improving itself. It is able to appreciate not just the wonder that the world around us offers but also the wonder that life is. Such an open mind is open to other realisations. It learns to live with not just one truth but more than one truth. There is no single persuasion but multiple persuasions. This understanding softens the disdain and contempt which triggers intolerance and fractures the mind and the world. The fractured mind needs healing. So does the fractured world. It is only reflection which is capable of capturing the fleeting joy and happiness which makes both life and the world worthwhile. Avoiding the issues that polarise also avoids the process of healing.

Buyer should get same interest rate builders charge for default: SC

Gives plot-buyer refund with interest of 18% per annum

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said there was no principle of law that the interest on default that builders charged could never be granted to flat or plot buyers.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih, citing a series of judgments, pointed out that it could not be said that the apex court had always rejected the claim of parity.

"The law is well-settled that the amount of interest should be reasonable. What is reasonable varies from case to case. The same is to be granted considering the facts and circumstances of each case," said the bench.

Awarding an interest of 18% per annum on plot-buyer Rajnesh Sharma's deposits, the court rejected developer M/s Business Park Town Planners Ltd's arguments that it had consistently granted interest at the rate of 9% per annum.

"The Supreme Court said the builder cannot be permitted to escape with a nominal liability for its default, while it charged interest at the rate of 18 percent on default committed by the purchaser.

Having noted the long delay and the interest the developer charged, the bench said: "In view of the conduct of the respondent-developer, it cannot be permitted to escape with a nominal liability for its default, while it charged interest at the rate of 18% on default committed by the appellant."

The appellant challenged the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) order granting him interest at the rate of 9% on the refund amount.

Rule of thumb

The top court emphasised that the rate of interest charged by the builder could not be granted to the buyer as a rule of thumb.

However, the bench said that in the present case, "equity and fairness demand that the respondent be put to the same rigours for charging 18% interest and face consequences similar to those imposed on the appellant for the default committed by him. If we hold otherwise, we will be perpetuating a manifestly wrong bargain."

The court said the series of judgments the developer cited would make no difference to its decision, as all the cases were decided in light of each matter's peculiar facts.

The bench, however, agreed to a contention that the objective of granting compensation could not be altered such that it amounted to a windfall gain to the other party.

The court held this is an appropriate case where refund of the principal amount of Rs 43,13,212 with an interest rate of 9% per annum for a plot booked in 2006, as awarded by the NCDRC, would not serve the ends of justice.

Harassment

The court noted that the developer caused the delay in offering the plot, and charged the appellant a delay compensation at 18% per annum on the due amount. The appellant had to endure a wait of over a decade, causing harassment and anxiety, it said.

EC rolls out e-verification to stop misuse of name deletion

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission has rolled out an e-verification procedure to ensure that the provision to seek deletion of names from the voters' list is not misused.

Those seeking the removal of names or claiming objection to the inclusion of names in the electoral roll will get a one-time password on their registered mobile phones.

"There could be cases where a person seeking removal of a name gives someone else's name or phone number while filing an objection online. This added feature will present such a misuse," an official explained.

The feature was rolled out a week ago, with poll authority officials insisting that it is not a reaction to wrongful attempts to delete names in the Aland assembly constituency in Karnataka.

The EC said that although the elector of the constituency can fill Form 7 online to apply for deletion of an entry from that particular constituency, it does not mean that the entry gets automatically deleted merely by submitting the Form 7.

'Lock on vote theft'

In a post on X, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that the EC has put a "lock" on "vote theft" only after he raised the matter.

He asked Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar when he would provide evidence to the Karnataka CID on the "deletion" of votes in Aland.

CBSE Class 10, 12 board exams from Feb 17

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday issued the tentative timetable for the 2026 board examinations.

As per the announcement, Class 10 and Class 12 exams will commence on February 17, 2026, with results expected by July 15.

Nearly 45 lakh students from India and 26 other countries are expected to take the exams.

CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj said the early release of the schedule would help students streamline their preparation, assist schools in planning academic activities, and allow teachers to manage their schedules better.

From 2026, Class 10 students will have the option to appear for board exams twice a year.

The first exam in February will be mandatory, while a second, optional exam in May will give students an opportunity to improve their scores in up to three subjects from Science, Mathematics, Social Science, and languages.

According to the tentative datesheet, evaluation of answer sheets will start around 10 days after each paper and be completed within 12 days.

The first day of the Class 10 exams, February 17, will feature Mathematics (Standard and Basic). Vocational subjects will follow on February 18, English on February 21, French on February 23, and Science on February 25. Information Technology and Computer Applications are scheduled for February 27.

SIT formed to probe Zubeen Garg's death

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Assam government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the death of singer Zubeen Garg, who died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19.

The festival was organised by a firm run by Shyamkanu Mahanta, an Assamese entrepreneur.

The SIT will be headed by Special Director General of Police (CID), MP Gupta.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said the government would not spare anyone found responsible for Garg's death.

The FIRs named Mahanta and Zubeen's manager, Siddharth Sharma, responsible for the singer's death. CM Sarma announced that the government had prohibited Mahanta's firm from orgainsing any event.

Man arrested for aiding Pahalgam attackers

26-yr-old accused of giving logistical support to TRF

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Over four months after 26 people were killed in a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, security agencies arrested a man from south Kashmir's Kulgam district for allegedly providing assistance to the Pakistan-backed terrorist group, The Resistance Front (TRF).

Officials on Wednesday confirmed the arrest of 26-year-old Mohammad Yousuf Kataria, accusing him of providing logistical support to the attackers. Investigators say Kataria guided the terrorists through forested areas of Kulgam in the weeks leading up to the April 22 attack in Baisaran Valley, one of the worst in Kashmir in recent years.

Sources said Kataria, who worked on a contractual basis and also taught children in his village, came into contact with militants a few months before the attack and began facilitating their movements. His arrest followed the forensic examination of weapons seized during Operation Mahadev, which were linked to the April 22 attack.

The Pahalgam terror attack was among the deadliest in recent years. Gunmen ambushed a group of tourists near the popular Baisaran meadow — often referred to as "Mini Switzerland" — and opened fire indiscriminately on their vehicles. The massacre drew international condemnation and triggered a large-scale counter-insurgency operation across south Kashmir.

Security agencies later identified the attackers as TRF cadres who had infiltrated from Pakistan.

In June, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested two brothers from Kulgam — Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar and Bashir Ahmad Jothar — for allegedly sheltering the militants and providing logistical help. Their interrogation revealed the identities of three terrorists directly involved in the attack.

Investigators are now piecing together the broader support network that enabled the attackers to travel, hide and execute the massacre. Security officials said more arrests are likely as they trace hideouts and Overground Worker (OGW) links that sustained the TRF module behind the carnage.

PM reviews eight infra projects worth Rs 65k cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday reviewed eight critical infrastructure projects across 15 states with a cumulative investment of Rs 65,000 crore, with an emphasis on clear timelines and prompt resolution of bottlenecks.

The projects reviewed during the 49th meeting of Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) platform spanned across sectors, including mines, railways, water resources, and power.

The prime minister urged officials at both the Central and state levels to adopt a result-oriented approach, translating opportunities into improved quality of life for people, while also advancing the goals of ease of living for citizens and ease of doing business for enterprises, an official statement said.

Modi said delays in execution impose a double cost – often escalating project expenditure and also depriving citizens of timely access to essential services and infrastructure.

The prime minister emphasised that states/UTs should also institutionalise mechanisms at their level for regular review and monitoring of flagship projects, ensuring timely implementation and effective resolution of bottlenecks.

Indian Air Force aircraft perform aerial maneuvers during rehearsals ahead of the 'MiG-21 Operational Flying Culmination Ceremony' at Chandigarh Air Force Station (AFS) on Wednesday. PTI

MiG-21 fighter jets set to retire from IAF tomorrow

CHANDIGARH, PTI

The legendary Russian-origin MiG-21 fighter jets, which have been the backbone of the Indian Air Force's combat fleet for over six decades, are finally set to retire from the IAF at a decommissioning event in Chandigarh, where the iconic aircraft was first inducted over six decades ago.

The official culmination of MiG-21 operations is set for September 26 with a ceremonial flypast and decommissioning event, marking the closure of a historic chapter in India's air power.

The last of the MiG-21 jets, belonging to number 23 Squadron nicknamed "Panthers", will be given a farewell at the decommissioning ceremony at the Chandigarh Air Force station.

On Friday, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh will fly the last sortie of the Squadron with the call sign 'Badal 3'.

Dilbagh Singh, who became the IAF chief in 1981, had led the first MiG-21 Squadron here in 1963.

In a recent post on X about the retiring MiG-21s, the IAF said, "Six decades of service, countless tales of courage, a warhorse that carried pride of a nation into the skies".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, will be present on Friday.

Six former IAF chiefs A Y Tipnis, S Krishnaswamy, S P Tyagi, P V Naik, B S Dhanoa and R K S Bhadauria will also attend the event.

Six senior Maoists surrender in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a big blow to the Maoist movement, six senior cadres, carrying a cumulative reward of Rs 65 lakh on their heads surrendered in Gadchiroli on Wednesday.

The surrender happened before DGP Rashmi Shukla in the presence of the top cops, including officials of the Special Operations and Anti-Naxal Operations cells as well as the Central Reserve Police Force.

Bhimanna alias Vyankatesh alias Sukhlal Muttayya Kulmenthe (58) and Vimalakka alias Shankarakka Vistarayya Sadmek (56) are divisional committee members.

Bhimanna was transferred to the Mobile Academic School team of the North Bastar Division in 2020 and worked as the DVCM, while being in charge of the DK Press Team.

The four others who surrendered were Kavita alias Shanti Mangaru Majji (34), commander of the West Bureau Tailor Team; Nagesh alias Aytal Guddi Madavi (39), PPCM, Company No 10; Sameer Ayatu Potam (24), PPCM, South bureau technical team; and Navata alias Rupi alias Surekha Chaitu Madavi (28).

CDS General Chauhan's tenure extended by 8 months

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan's tenure has been extended up to May next year, the government said on Wednesday.

CDS General Anil Chauhan

Gen Chauhan's current stint as the top military officer is scheduled to end on September 30.

The defence ministry said the government has approved the extension of service of Gen Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, up to May 30 next year or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

He has been serving as the Chief of Defence Staff since September 30, 2022.

Iran supports Saudi-Pakistan defence pact

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Tehran has extended its support to the defence agreement Riyadh recently inked with Islamabad, committing Saudi Arabia to help Pakistan respond to any aggression by a third country.

"We welcome the defence agreement signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan," President Masoud Pezeshkian said at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, adding the agreement could mark the beginning of a regional security framework.

Though New Delhi's relations with Riyadh have been on a positive trajectory recently, Saudi Arabia disregarded India's concerns and inked the agreement.

Prime accused in Assam Rifles' convoy ambush held

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Manipur police display arms and ammunition seized from Khundongbam Ojit Singh, alias Keilal, in Imphal. PTI

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act or AFSPA is enforced in entire Manipur except in 13 police station areas of the five valley districts. Nambol, where the ambush occurred, falls in Bishnupur district and had no AFSPA coverage, officials had said.

Security forces on Wednesday arrested a cadre of People's Liberation Army (PLA), a valley-based insurgent group, who was the 'prime accused' in the ambush on a team of Assam Rifles personnel on September 19, in which three jawans were killed and five others were injured.

Manipur police said the cadre, identified as Khundongbam Ojit Singh alias Keibol, was arrested at Kameng in Imphal West district based on specific information.

"During questioning, he revealed that he was directly involved in the ambush at Sabal Leikai at Nambol in Bishnupur district on 33 Assam Rifles. After firing at the Assam Rifles personnel, he, along with other persons, fled towards the Loktak Lake and hid the arms and ammunition," Maipur police said.

The Assam Rifles team was on the way from Imphal to Bishnupur. Both Imphal and Bishnupur are Meitei-dominated. The highway connects the valley with Kuki-dominated Churachandpur and Mizoram.

The attack came amid talks to restore peace in Manipur.

The security forces launched combing operations in search of those involved in the attack, while people in both the valley and Kuki-dominated districts took to the streets to condemn the attack carried out amid efforts to end the conflict.

Police said during a search, one A4 rifle with four magazines, one HK rifle with two magazines, two AK series rifles with five magazines, one INSAS rifle with three magazines, three lathode shells, besides other weapons were recovered.

"Raids are underway in the area in search of others who were also involved in the attack," the police said.

Supreme Court asks Centre to launch portal for missing kids

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to create a dedicated online portal, under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to trace missing children and facilitate investigations into such cases.

A bench comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan highlighted the lack of coordination among police authorities responsible for tracing missing children across states and Union Territories.

The court suggested that the portal should include a designated officer from each state to oversee missing persons complaints and ensure the dissemination of information.

The SC underscored the need for a "coordinated effort" to trace missing children and called for the creation of a dedicated online portal to address the issue. It asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to seek instructions in the matter.

Earlier, the court had directed the Centre to issue reminders to several states and UTs to furnish data on missing children cases.

NGO Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan moved the SC, highlighting unresolved cases of kidnapping and missing children, as well as the need for action based on information available through the 'Khoya/Paya' portal monitored by the Centre.

The petition cited five cases registered in Uttar Pradesh last year, involving the kidnapping and trafficking of minor boys and girls through a network of middlemen to states such as Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

URBAN UPLIFT

Kochi's twin towers rise as model for slum-free India

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Setting a benchmark for slum rehabilitation, two residential towers comprising 394 flats have been constructed in Kochi to house slum dwellers and other homeless people.

Located at Thuruthy in Fort Kochi, close to the city centre, the apartments have been developed under the Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY).

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the flats on September 27.

The two apartment complexes in Fort Kochi for slum residents and homeless. (FACEBOOK PIC BY KOCHI MAYOR M ANIL KUMAR)

Beneficiaries who visited the site expressed immense joy at the prospect of moving from slums to well-equipped apartments. The twin towers, rising 13 and 11 storeys respectively, offer a scenic view of the Kochi backwaters, a major tourist attraction.

Developed by the Kochi Corporation at a total cost of Rs 85 crore, the project comprises two towers: the 11-storey first tower houses 199 flats with a carpet area of 300 square feet each, while the 13-storey second tower contains 195 flats, each offering 350 square feet of carpet area.

The complex includes lifts, common areas, sewage treatment facilities and parking space for 149 cars, along with other essential amenities.

Space for 32 shops has been provided on the ground floor, with rental income earmarked for the routine maintenance of the flats. An anganwadi will also operate within the premises.

Homeless turn flat owners

In a social media post, Kochi Mayor M Anil Kumar announced that nearly 400 homeless families can now proudly call themselves flat owners in Fort Kochi.

The project was initiated in 2012–13 under the RAY, a national scheme aimed at making India slum-free.

Fresh batch of cheetahs likely by Dec: Officials

NEW DELHI, PTI: India is in negotiations with several African countries to bring in fresh batches of cheetahs and is expected to have one group of 8-10 of them, likely from Botswana, by this December, sources said.

Other countries being looked at by India as a possible source of new batches of cheetahs include Namibia.

Officials associated with Project Cheetah asserted that India's ambitious move to reintroduce cheetahs into its wild has been a 'big success', and the programme has successfully navigated the initial challenges.

Since PM Modi released the first batch of eight cheetahs from Namibia into Kuno National Park on his birthday in September 2022, their numbers were reinforced in February 2023 by 12 cheetahs from South Africa. They have bred multiple times here — evidence, sources said, that they have adapted well to Indian conditions.

The current lot of 27 cheetahs includes 16 born in India, the sources said, adding that the overall cub survival rate in Kuno is over 61% against the corresponding global figure of 40%.

Cabinet approves plan to add over 10,000 new med seats across India

Okays 5,000 PG and 5,023 MBBS seats; sanctions Rs 15,035 crore

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Fulfilling a budget promise, the Central government on Wednesday approved over 10,000 additional seats in undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) medical colleges.

The approval by the Union Cabinet is for 5,000 PG seats and 5,023 MBBS seats in medical colleges, for which Rs 15,035 crore was sanctioned.

Budget promise

Presenting the budget in February, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the creation of 10,000 additional medical seats this year in line with the Narendra Modi government's promise of adding 75,000 medical seats in five years.

An increase in the number of doctors is expected to help improve India's doctor-patient ratio, which is well below the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard of 1:1,000 if only allopathic doctors are considered.

The Union Health Ministry, however, claims a much better doctor-patient ratio by adding 7.5 lakh Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (Ayush) doctors into the mix.

India currently has 1,23,700 MBBS seats and 76,174 PG seats, but the number of doctors is still limited compared to the population load, particularly in areas beyond metro cities and urban pockets.

Shortage in rural India

Government data shows that despite a 100% increase in MD seats in the last 10 years, rural India still suffers from a nearly 70% shortage of specialist doctors.

The shortfall with respect to sanctioned posts in rural Community Health Centres is maximum for surgeons (73%), followed by physicians (69%), paediatricians (68%) and obstetrics and gynaecology specialists (61%).

Earlier, the National Medical Commission relaxed the infrastructure and faculty norms for setting up new medical colleges and increasing the number of seats in the undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

These included recognising the Diplomate of National Board (DNB) as a qualification for faculty appointment to take care of the shortage.

Gujarat: Murder case accused killed in police encounter

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A police team that took a murder suspect for crime scene reconstruction in Gujarat's Gandhinagar shot him dead after he allegedly snatched a revolver and opened fire, injuring at least one policeman. The suspect was killed in the retaliatory fire, police said."

On Tuesday, the Ahmedabad Crime Detection Branch arrested the suspect, Vipul alias Vimal alias Neel Parmar, from Kagdadi village in Rajkot. He was accused of the brutal killing of 25-year-old Vaibhav Manvani and attacking his woman friend on the night of September 20.

Manvavi suffered 12 stab wounds while the woman was stabbed four times. Her condition is said to be stable.

The two were celebrating Manvani's birthday at the Narmada canal when the accused attacked them with the intention of robbing them.

Manvani died on the spot, but the woman managed to flee and took help of a passerby to inform her father.

"A police team from Adalaj police station, under whose jurisdiction the crime was registered, had taken the accused to the crime spot for reconstruction of the crime. During this, the suspect snatched the revolver and opened fire in a bid to escape. In defense, the police team also opened fire, in which the suspect was killed," a senior police officer told *DH*.

SC questions delay in deciding Beant killer's mercy plea

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday, while hearing a plea by Balwant Singh Rajoana, a member of the banned outfit Babbar Khalsa who was convicted and sentenced to death for the 1995 assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, questioned the inordinate delay in deciding his mercy plea.

"Why didn't you hang him till now? Who is to blame for that? At least, we have not stayed his execution, we suppose," a bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and N V Anjaria asked the Central government.

On August 31, 1995, Beant Singh and 16 others lost their lives in a bomb blast. Rajoana was arrested on January 27, 1996.

A trial court on July 27, 2007, convicted him along with co-accused Jagtar Singh Hawara, Gurmeet Singh, Lakhwinder Singh, Shamsher Singh, and Nasib Singh.

'Matter of national security'

The Central government has maintained that Rajoana's release was a matter of national security and linked it to the concerns regarding the resurgence of pro-Khalistan sentiment.

On November 25, 2024, the Central government had said that the mercy-petition matter was sensitive, after which the court granted it four more weeks to decide on it. The apex court on November 18, 2024, directed President Droupadi Murmu's secretary to place before her the mercy petition with a request to decide the matter within two weeks.

However, the apex court put its order on hold on the Solicitor General's request.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Rajoana (58), argued that in the case of Devender Bhullar, another person convicted in the attack and sentenced to death, a Supreme Court bench in a curative petition commuted it to life, and he was out now.

The bench listed the matter for hearing on October 15.

Interfaith marriage based on fake conversion void: Allahabad HC

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Allahabad High Court has ruled that an interfaith marriage solemnised on the basis of a fake conversion certificate is illegal, as it rejected the request to provide security to an inter-faith couple.

A single bench comprising Justice Sourabh Srivastava delivered this ruling on a petition filed by Mohammed Bin Quasim alias Akbar and his wife Chandra Kanta alias Zainab Parveen.

The couple had filed the petition in the High Court seeking a directive to the police to provide them security, as they felt threatened by the girl's family. Chandra Kanta had allegedly 'converted' to Islam at Khankah Alia Arifia (an Islamic religious place) in Kaushambi district in February this year.

Quasim and Chandra Kanta, rechristened as Zainab Parveen, later married in accordance with Islamic rituals in May.

During the hearing, the manager of Khankah Aaliya Arifia informed the court that no conversion certificate had been issued to Chandra Kanta.

The court ruled that since the conversion certificate was fake, the marriage solemnised on its basis was void. It further said that under Muslim law, a nikah (Muslim marriage) could take place only between people who follow Islam and not with people of another religion.

The court also warned the petitioners' lawyer against submitting documents without verification and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on him.

As Chandra Kanta refused to go with her parents, the court directed that she be kept at a women's shelter in Prayagraj.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

DEAR, I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS...ARE YOU SITTING DOWN?
I'M SITTING DOWN...WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE SITTING DOWN?
I'M SURE
ARE YOU SUPER SURE?
I HAVE A FEELING I SHOULD BE LYING DOWN!

Hagar The Horrible

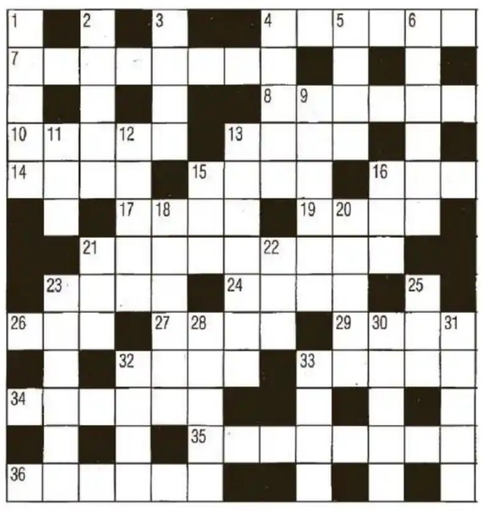
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT'S A REAL DOG?
YEAH, MAYBE IT'S A KID IN A DOG SUIT...
POW!
ANIMALS ARE USUALLY FRIENDLY UNLESS NEEDLESSLY PROVOKED
WELL, IT COULD HAVE BEEN A KID IN A DOG SUIT...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12254



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Strong? Very! (6)
7 Neuralgic opportunity to confront pain (4,4)
8 Something diplomatic to take in and try out (6)
10 Being unfriendly, some women upset me at journey's end (5)
13 Snoop around Middlesexfor a victim (4)
14 Perform without originality (4)
15 There aren't any ways they'll be agreeable (4)
16 For some, a Sunday seat (3)
17 Laid out for assembly (4)
19 Visitants that may be the ruin of us? (4)
21 A pancake landing on water (5,4)
23 Such waiters may have their ups and downs (4)
24 Obtains from a budget statement (4)
26 Caught in possession? (3)
27 Suetonius's place in the sphere of education (4)
29 In pairs, they kiss wildly (4)
32 It makes a mash in the barn (4)
33 A weak way to be ruled (5)
34 See preliminary races as mere wangles (6)
35 As epitomised by Newcastle United? (8)
36 To show not even a bit of pity, is something unusual (6)

DOWN
1 Following, with a beating heart, in terrible fear (5)
2 Took steps to provide Ted with a can opener (5)
3 It's a little one, darling (4)
4 It's not far, just outside the Turk's Head (5)
5 Early tea colour? (4)
6 It's the new taxes (6)
9 The outcome from Ulster (6)
11 Modernised in one week (3)
12 Something connected with computers (5)
13 Figure the bird has flown, from the sound of it? (7)
15 There's nothing in turning up on April the fifth (3)
16 The sound of music (3)
18 Chain two chaps together (6)
20 Ditch the Roman way (5)
21 Come out shooting (3)
22 Where one could get bogged down in fatheaded ways? (3)
23 Raced, but had hopes disappointed? (6)
25 Get the girl (3)
28 Thanks for the pen, it's very nice (5)
30 Are these birds all black? (5)
31 Distribute haphazardly, it's true (5)
32 Herbalist's island? (4)
33 Believe it's a false start by a swimmer (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Leg bone (6)
7 Everything considered (3,2,3)
8 Offensive (6)
10 Inexpensive (5)
13 Additional (4)
14 Cards dealt to a player (4)
15 Extinct bird (4)
16 Stitch (3)
17 Principal (4)
19 Spoken, verbal (4)
21 Abducted (9)
23 Prohibition (4)
24 Increase in wages (4)
26 Shy (3)
27 Pleasant (4)
29 Tangle (4)
32 Cod, say (4)
33 Willow (5)
34 Coercion (6)
35 Untried (8)
36 Stylus (6)

DOWN
1 Emerge from an egg (5)
2 Foreign (5)
3 Clip with scissors (4)
4 Deluge (5)
5 French cheese (4)
6 Sweet bay (6)
9 Sags (6)
11 Horses eat this (3)
12 Let in (5)
13 Crowned head (7)
15 Racket (3)
16 Opposite of happy (3)
18 Handsome young man (6)
20 Stinks (5)
21 Centrally important (3)
22 Baked food (3)
23 Loudness (6)
25 Foot digit (3)
28 Edition (5)
30 Quick, informally (5)
31 Business (5)
32 Vendetta (4)
33 Unlock (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12253

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Bamboo 7, Delivery 8, Semi 10, Beaten (Beeton) 11, MIrage 14, Got 16, Molar 17, A-von 19, Wotan 21, Gave-L 22,Ta-X-ed 23, C-os-h. 26, Bacon 28, Lap 29, A-lien-s 30,Ta-Mel-y 31, O-WEN 32, Coasters 33, He-Ave.-n.
DOWN: 1, Balboa 2, Be-Eton 3, Odin 4, Minim-a-L 5, Meta-L 6, Ryder 8, Sag-O 9, Met 12, R-on 13, Games 15, Novel 18, Vital 19, Wax 20,Ted 21, Gan-net-s 22,Toe 23, Camera 24, O-pen 25, Ho.- yden 26, B-atch 27, Cigar 28, L-a-W 30,Tosh.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Sunset 7, Well-read 8, Bale 10, Goatee 11, Native 14, See 16, Nadir 17, Apes 19, Cider 21, Cater 22, Linen 23, Plot 26, Galas 28,Tee 29, Adapts 30, Forage 31, Amid 32, Deserter 33, Ethics.
DOWN: 1, Stigma 2, States 3,Twee 4, Cleaner 5,Tepid 6, Adder 8, Base 9, Lee 12,Tar 13, Virgo 15, Kites 18, Plead 19, Can 20, Den 21, Cistern 22, Lap 23, Perish 24, Lead 25,Trends 26, Gaudy 27, Lasso 28,Tom 30, Fare.

◆SU-DO-KU-6710◆

		2	4	5	8			
				9				
	3	7				8		
5				1	7			8
	6			4			2	
3			8	2				4
		1				5	6	
				7				
			6	8	1	9		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6709

8	2	9	4	5	3	1	6	7
7	5	1	9	8	6	2	4	3
4	6	3	7	2	1	8	5	9
1	8	7	2	4	5	9	3	6
6	9	2	8	3	7	4	1	5
5	3	4	1	6	9	7	2	8
2	1	6	3	9	8	5	7	4
3	4	8	5	7	2	6	9	1
9	7	5	6	1	4	3	8	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1	D2	L1	K5	L1	E1	E1	1st Letter Triple	RACK 1
E1	M3	D2	I1	R1	I1	I1	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
A1	E1	L1	E1	C3	B3	D2	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
E1	I1	I1	S1	R1	P3	N1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 155-165
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

R1	E1	S1	I1	D2	E1	S1	RACK 1 =	58
C3	O1	R1	R1	E1	C3	T1	RACK 2 =	72
B3	E1	L1	C3	H4	E1	R1	RACK 3 =	92
G2	E1	N1	E1	R1	A1	L1	RACK 4 =	58
							JUDD'S TOTAL	280

PAR SCORE 185-195

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

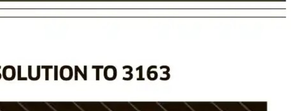
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEQTU

RSIKB

DHRIEN

AATNOS



THE GLOVE AND MITTEN FACTORY EMPLOYEES MET TO DISCUSS THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EERIE SPELL ASPECT EVOLVE
Answer: When she slept on the top bunk at her friend's house, it was a — SLEEPOVER

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HITORI-3164

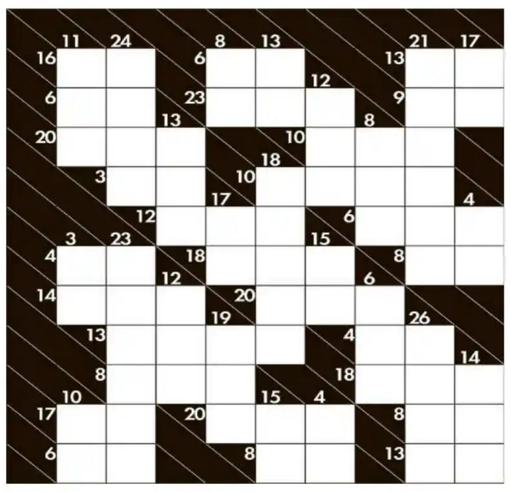
8	4	3	3	6	1	7	5
5	5	2	4	5	8	6	7
6	5	5	7	2	5	3	5
3	8	3	6	5	4	7	1
7	5	4	3	3	2	8	5
4	7	5	2	3	5	5	6
2	3	8	5	5	6	4	3
5	5	6	5	4	7	1	2

SOLUTION TO 3163

■	8	5	■	4	■	6	3
2	■	7	8	3	5	■	6
7	2	1	■	6	■	5	4
4	■	2	5	7	3	■	8
5	7	■	4	■	1	8	2
■	6	4	■	5	2	■	7
1	4	■	6	8	7	3	■
■	5	6	7	■	8	4	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3164



SOLUTION TO 3163

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3687

■			4		3	5		■
	■			7	9		6	
7		■		5		■		
3		9	5		7		2	
				■			8	
			8		■		4	
4		■		1		■		
	9	6					■	
■		1		9			5	■

SOLUTION TO 3686

4	9	1	2	3	6	5	8	7
6	7	3	8	5	9	4	2	1
2	5	8	7	1	4	3	9	6
5	2	6	1	4	8	7	3	9
1	8	7	9	6	3	2	4	5
3	4	9	5	7	2	1	6	8
7	3	4	6	8	5	9	1	2
8	1	2	3	9	7	6	5	4
9	6	5	4	2	1	8	7	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Flotilla challenging Gaza blockade hit by drones

ATHENS, AP/PTI: Activists taking part in a flotilla seeking to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza said oWednesday that some of their boats were attacked by drones overnight while sailing south of Greece.

The Global Sumud Flotilla said it was attacked during the night by "unidentified drones and communications jamming." It said that "at least 13 explosions" were heard on and around several flotilla boats, while drones or aircraft dropped "unidentified objects" on at least 10 boats. No casualties were reported, but there was damage to the vessels and "widespread obstruction in communications," it added.

Activists posted a brief video on the flotilla's social media account showing what appeared to be an explosion on or near one of the vessels. Greece's coast guard did not report any distress calls. There was no immediate response to questions regarding the attack from the Israeli military. The flotilla, comprised of dozens of boats from several countries, is carrying a symbolic amount of humanitarian aid for Palestinians in Gaza.

Russia rejects Trump's remarks about Ukraine retaking territories

Trump, in rhetorical shift, says Ukraine can retake all its land

MOSCOW, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in New York City on Tuesday. REUTERS

The Kremlin on Wednesday flatly rejected what Donald Trump said was the rationale behind his rhetorical U-turn on the war in Ukraine, saying it appeared the American president had been influenced by Ukraine's leader and was mistaken.

In an abrupt shift in Ukraine's favour, Trump said on Tuesday after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that he believed Kyiv could recapture all of its land taken by Russia — which controls around one-fifth of the country — and that it should act now, with Moscow facing economic problems.

The Kremlin, which says it seeks better ties with Washington, countered that the Russian economy remained stable despite Western sanctions, and that Russian forces' slow but steady advance in Ukraine was part of a deliberate strategy, with Kyiv, not Moscow, on the defensive.

"As far as we understand, President Trump's statements were made after communicating with (Ukrainian President) Zelenskyy and, apparently, under the influence of a vision set out by Zelenskyy. This vision contrasts sharply with our understanding of the current state of affairs," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"The fact that Ukraine is being encouraged in every possible way to continue hostilities and the argument that Ukraine can win something back is, in our view, a mistaken argument," he said.

Trump's description of Russia as a "paper tiger" was also dismissed by the Kremlin.

Russia was more commonly associated with a bear than a tiger, Peskov told RBC radio, adding "paper bears don't exist."

> **DONALD TRUMP**
> US President
>
> "With time, patience, and the financial support of Europe and, in particular, Nato, the original borders from where this war started, is very much an option.

India mostly with us, says Ukrainian president

WASHINGTON, PTI: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said India is "mostly with us" and expressed hope that New Delhi will change its attitude to the Russian energy sector with US President Donald Trump's intervention.

Zelenskyy was answering a question during an interview with Fox News about China and India contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine.

The US has often blamed India and China for purchasing Russian, which President Trump has claimed funds Moscow's war against Ukraine.

"I think India mostly with us. Yes, we have these questions with energy, but I think that President Trump can manage it with Europeans, make more close and strong relations with India," Zelenskyy said.

"And I think, we have to do everything not to withdraw Indians and they will change their attitude to the Russian energy sector," the president said.

H-1B visa fee increase raises US doctor shortage concerns

REUTERS

The US plan to dramatically raise fees for H-1B visas is drawing concern from American healthcare groups, who say the move could worsen staffing shortages as more than half of healthcare workers consider changing jobs within the next year.

The US Department of Homeland Security is reviewing policy changes that would increase the cost of applying for H-1B visas to as much as $1,00,000 from the current top of $4,500. The H-1B program allows US employers to hire foreign workers in speciality fields like technology, engineering, medicine, and academia.

The visas are widely used by the US healthcare sector to recruit international medical graduates or foreign-trained doctors and other professionals trained abroad. The American Academy of Family Physicians emphasised that international medical graduates account for over one-fifth of practising family doctors and are disproportionately likely to serve in rural areas.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services reported that in fiscal year 2025, there were about 4,42,000 unique H-1B visa beneficiaries across all sectors, with 5,640 petitions approved in the healthcare and social assistance industry alone.

Erdogan raises Kashmir issue at UN

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The issue of Kashmir should be resolved in accordance with United Nations resolutions, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said at the UN General Assembly late on Tuesday.

"The issue of Kashmir should be resolved on the basis of UN resolutions for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in Kashmir, through dialogue, we hope," Erdogan said, overlooking the sensitivities of New Delhi, which had earlier conveyed to Ankara its concerns over similar remarks by the Turkish President in international fora.

New Delhi maintains that the 1972 Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan and the 1999 Lahore Declaration left no scope for the UN or any other third party to play a role in resolving the "outstanding issues" between the two South Asian neighbours.

Erdogan's remarks came just a few days after the Indian Navy conducted its first bilateral drill with the Hellenic Navy (of Greece) in the Mediterranean Sea between September 13 and 18. New Delhi used the drill to send a message to Greece's arch-rival Türkiye.

"We are pleased with the ceasefire achieved following the tensions last April between Pakistan and India, tensions which had escalated into conflict," Erdogan said.

Türkiye had sent a warship and military cargo planes to Pakistan after the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir of India had escalated tensions between the two South Asian neighbours.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa addresses the UN General Assembly in New York City on Wednesday. Al-Sharaa became the first Syrian head of state to speak at the UN since Attasi gave a speech in 1967. AFP

Bangkok road collapse creates a sinkhole, prompting evacuations

▶ A part of a road in Bangkok collapsed on Wednesday, leaving a large sinkhole that disrupted traffic, damaged infrastructure and prompted evacuations in the surrounding area, AP/PTI reports from Bangkok.

There were no casualties but three vehicles were damaged by the collapse, said Bangkok governor Chadchart Sittipunt. He said officials believe the collapse was caused by an ongoing construction of an underground train station. Videos of the moment of the collapse show the face of the road slowly sinking down, pulling down several electricity poles and damaging water pipes. Cars tried to back away as the hole grew larger and completely severed the four-lane road. One edge of the hole stopped right in front of a police station, exposing its underground structure. A nearby hospital said it would close the outpatient services for two days. The Bangkok city officials said the hospital's structure was not affected, but people were ordered to be evacuated from the police station and other nearby buildings.

100-yr jail term for 'PUBG murders'

▶ A Pakistani court on Wednesday sentenced a teenager to a 100-year jail term for killing his mother, a brother and two sisters in a fit of rage over the issue of playing online PUBG games, PTI reports from Lahore.

The incident occurred in 2022. "Additional Sessions Judge, Lahore, Riaz Ahmed handed down 100-year imprisonment on four counts to Zain Ali, 17, and also imposed a fine of PkR 4 million for his offence," a court official told PTI. The court announced the verdict in light of the evidence and witnesses produced by the prosecution. The official further said the judge in his verdict said due to his age, the suspect is awarded four life sentences — 25 years for each murder. Zain Ali, then 14, was a diehard PUBG player spending most of his time playing the online game and often got admonished by his mother.

(L-R) A parody of Mount Rushmore sculpture depicting the faces of Russia's President Vladimir Putin, China's President Xi Jinping, North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump is on display at a mall in Bangkok on Wednesday. AFP

Super typhoon Ragasa kills 14

▶ Super typhoon Ragasa left 14 people dead and 18 injured in Taiwan, while China's southern Guangdong province, a key global manufacturing hub, evacuated over a million residents in preparation for the powerful storm's landfall expected later on Wednesday, PTI reports from Beijing.

Described as the most powerful storm to hit the Chinese coast this year, Ragasa, the 18th typhoon of the season, is forecast to make landfall along the coastline of Guangdong province, official media here reported. It could become the most powerful storm to strike China so far this year, the state-run CGTN TV said. In Taiwan, typhoon Ragasa left 14 dead and 18 injured, local authorities said.

Satellites to study solar storms

▶ A cluster of space weather satellites blasted off Wednesday morning to cast fresh eyes on solar storms that can produce stunning auroras but also scramble communications and threaten astronauts in flight, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral.

The three satellites soared from Kennedy Space Centre shortly after sunrise on the same SpaceX rocket. They aimed for a sun-orbiting lookout 1.6 million kilometres from Earth, each on its own separate mission. Altogether, the satellites from Nasa and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, plus related costs, are worth $1.6 billion.

Actress Demi Moore arrives for Gucci's exclusive screening of 'The Tiger', a short film directed by Spike Jonze during Milan Fashion Week on Tuesday. REUTERS

Global South must cut dependence on single market, says India

Jaishankar calls for reforms, stronger multilateralism

NEW YORK, PTI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Brazil Foreign Affairs Minister Mauro Vieira ahead of the L-69 & C-10 Joint Ministerial meeting in New York on Tuesday. PTI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has urged Global South countries to reduce dependence on any single supplier or market by building resilient supply chains, alongside promoting fair economic practices, and boosting South-South trade and technology collaborations.

Addressing a high-level meeting of Like-Minded Global South Countries on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly here on Tuesday, Jaishankar said, "We meet in increasingly uncertain times, when the state of the world is a cause for mounting concern for member states."

The Global South, he said, in particular, is confronted with a set of challenges, from pandemic shocks and wars in Ukraine and Gaza to extreme climate events, volatile trade, uncertainty in investment flows and interest rates, and the "catastrophic" slowing down of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

"In the face of such proliferation of concerns and multiplicity of risks, it is natural that the Global South would turn to multilateralism for solutions," Jaishankar said. However, "unfortunately", he noted, "there too we are presented with a very disappointing prospect", with the "very concept of multilateralism under attack" and international organisations being rendered ineffective or "starved of resources".

"The building blocks of the contemporary order are starting to come apart. And the cost of delaying much-needed reforms is today starkly visible," Jaishankar said.

He said the Global South must present a united front in demanding a level playing field in the international system.

Iran starts rebuilding missile sites hit by Israel

DUBAI, AP/PTI: Iran has begun rebuilding missile-production sites targeted by Israel during its 12-day war in June, satellite images analysed by The Associated Press show, though a key component is still likely missing — the large mixers needed to produce solid fuel for the weapons.

Reconstituting the missile programme is crucial for the Islamic Republic, which believes another round of war with Israel may happen. The missiles are one of Iran's few military deterrents after the war decimated its air defence systems — something that Tehran has long insisted will never be included in negotiations with the West.

Missile experts told AP that obtaining the mixers is a goal for Tehran, particularly as it prepares for possible United Nations sanctions to be reimposed on the country later this month. The sanctions would penalise any development of the missile programme, among other measures.

Man arrested over cyberattack on European airports

LONDON, AP/PTI: A man in his 40s was arrested in southern England over an alleged cyberattack that disrupted several European airports in recent days, including London Heathrow.

The UK's National Crime Agency said the suspect was detained in West Sussex on Tuesday on suspicion of offences involving the misuse of computers and was later released on bail. "Although this arrest is a positive step, the investigation into this incident is in its early stages and remains ongoing," said Paul Foster, head of the NCA's national cybercrime unit.

Government of Karnataka
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BYADGI

ನಂ: TMC/BYD/SFC/SP/2025-26 Date:- 24-09-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Officer Town municipal Council Byadgi, District Haveri invites e-tenders for the following Work Indents Under 2024-25 SFC Special Grant Interested Contractor can download the tender documents from the e-procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

SL. NO	Indent Number	Estimated Amount (Rs in lakhs)
1	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT41807	400.00

Sd/- BALACHANDRAGOUDA S. PATIL, President-TMC Byadgi
Sd/- SUBHASH D. MALAGI, Vice-President-TMC Byadgi
Sd/- VINAYKUMAR HOLEPPAGOUDA, Chief Officer-TMC Byadgi

Dipr/hvr/DIPR/413/2025-26

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com

No: ME/Tender/05/2025-26 Date: 24-09-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of Medical Equipments to Karwara Medical College.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 25-09-2025
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 08-10-2025 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 28-10-2025 before 4.30 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 31-10-2025 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

DIPR/CP/2960/Adverto/2025-26 Sd/- Director, Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Government Secretariat, Vikasa Soudha, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.
NO: DOH 226 RERA 2024 Dated: 22-09-2025

NOTIFICATION

The detailed notification inviting Applications from eligible persons for the Vacant Post of Member of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority is Posted on the RERA Website: **www.rera.karnataka.gov.in**

Interested Persons may Apply by 21.10.2025 till 5.00 PM.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(MOHAN RAJ K.P)
Secretary to Government,
Housing Department.

DIPR/CP/2957/Adverto/2025-26

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE , KALABURAGI
Flax No.08472-260776, Ph.08472-278675, E-mail: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/HS/TENDER/2025-26 Dated: 23.09.2025

KPPP TENDER NOTIFICATION-02

Under the Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Rules 2000, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Corporation invites tenders from eligible bidders for the work mentioned below. Tenders are invited through e-procurement for the following services.

Sl.No. 01) Name of Work : **Supply of Housekeeping Staff on outsource basis to Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike 2025-26,** Indent No : **DMA/2025-26/SE6049 Call-2**, Estimate Amount in Lakhs, **22.42 Lakh,** EMD Amount 2.5% (In.Rs), **56,050/-** 02) **Providing of 24 Security Guards (Watchman) on outsource basis to Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike 2025-26.** Indent No.**DMA/2025-26/SE6106 Call-2**, Estimate Amount in Lakhs : **59.60 Lakh, EMD Amount 2.5% (In.Rs) 1,49,000/-** Tender Last Date and Technical Bid opening Date • Last Date and Time for Queries Date :**10.10.2025, Timing :04.30 PM,** • Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders Date:**13.10.2025, Timing:04.30PM** • Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid Date:**14.10.2025, Timing : 04.35PM**, • Date and Time for Opening of Financial Bid Date:**18.10.2025, Timing : 11.00AM.** For more details about EMD is availed in KPPP portal • For more information Contact Environmental Engineer Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi • Wed Site : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/553/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity Sd/- **Deputy Commission (Dev)** City Corpoation Kalaburagi

Fuel exports surge to multi-year highs on higher refinery runs, ethanol blending

Europe to stockpile diesel from India ahead of winter

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

Oil refiners are increasing gasoline and diesel exports to their highest levels in several years, driven by expanded crude processing capacity and increased domestic ethanol blending that has freed up fuel supplies for overseas markets, traders and analysts said.

Refiners in India, which sources about a third of its crude from Russia, are boosting runs and redirecting surplus barrels abroad.

The rise in exports is expected to help meet Europe's winter heating oil demand and support Indian refining margins, after refiners turned to discounted Russian crude when Europe and the US imposed sanctions on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Washington DC has accused India of profiteering by importing Russian oil at lower prices and reselling refined fuel at higher rates; India has said its purchases have stabilised markets.

This year, India's crude processing is expected to increase by 130,000 to 160,000 barrels per day to about 5.51 million bpd, with gasoline exports hitting a record high of around 400,000 bpd, according to consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

An Indian refining source, who declined to be named due to company policy, said exports are rising because of weaker domestic demand during the monsoon season and fewer scheduled maintenance outages.

BPCL refinery in Mumbai.

Data provider Kpler pegs India's 2025 gasoline exports at 387,000 bpd, mainly to Asia.

"The growth in gasoline exports is supported by a rising share of ethanol blending in domestic gasoline consumption," Woodmac analyst Priti Mehta said. The world's second-biggest crude importer and consumer increased ethanol blending in gasoline to 20% this year, up from 12% in 2023.

Refiners, led by Reliance Industries and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd, are boosting exports to capitalise on strong Asian gasoline margins <GL92-SIN-CRK>, which have risen 51% since the start of the year to about $11 to $12 a barrel.

The companies did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Europe's diesel buying spree

India's gasoil exports are also expected to hit a four-year high this year, with most volumes heading to Europe to meet winter heating demand, analysts said, as global supply may tighten during the fourth quarter because of heavy refinery maintenance in Europe and the Middle East. Wood Mackenzie expects India's 2025 gasoil exports to reach 610,000-630,000 bpd while Kpler's forecast is at 560,000 bpd.

The rise in India's exports comes as shipments from Saudi Arabia are set to fall by 300,000 bpd to around 400,000 bpd in October–November with several Aramco refineries scheduled for maintenance, according to consultancy Energy Aspects.

In a sign of the shift, Reliance Industries in late August shipped about 2 million barrels of diesel to Europe on the Very Large Crude Carrier Atokos, an uncommon move aimed at accommodating bigger volumes, ship-tracking data showed and two Singapore-based fuel traders said. Diesel cargoes are typically moved on smaller product tankers.

Cabinet approves Rs 69,725 cr package for maritime sector

Likely to attract Rs 4.5L cr investments; create 30L jobs

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 69,725 crore package to strengthen the domestic shipbuilding and maritime sector, which is crucially important for the country's energy security and foreign trade.

The initiatives include setting up a Maritime Development Fund (MDF) with a corpus of Rs 25,000 crore to support long-term financing in the sector.

The MDF will comprise Rs 20,000 crore as Maritime Investment Fund (MIF), which will be focused on promoting equity financing; and Rs 5,000 crore as Interest Incentivisation Fund aimed at lowering debt costs and improving the financial feasibility of the projects in the sector.

Under this scheme the government will provide upto 3% incentive to banks and other financial institutions for loans given to Indian shipyards, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a media briefing.

The initiative is expected to drive export growth and create 30 lakh jobs in the sector, the minister said. "This is a 10-year programme," he added.

The Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme, which was launched in 2016 and was slated to end on March 31, 2026, has been extended by 10 years to March 2036 with a total corpus of Rs 24,736 crore. The scheme aims to incentivise ship building in India and includes a shipbreaking credit note with an allocation of Rs 4,001 crore.

Vizhinjam International Seaport.

Another component of the package is the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) with a budgetary outlay of Rs 19,989 crore. The scheme aims to expand domestic shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage annually, support mega shipbuilding clusters, infrastructure expansion, establish the India Ship Technology Centre under the Indian Maritime University, and provide risk coverage, including insurance support for shipbuilding projects.

The government plans to set up a National Shipbuilding Mission to oversee the implementation of these initiatives.

The minister announced that the package is projected to help attract nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore investment in India's maritime sector, which is critically important for external trade. It supports nearly 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value.

"Beyond its economic impact, the initiative will strengthen national, energy, and food security by bringing resilience to critical supply chains and maritime routes. It will also reinforce India's geopolitical resilience and strategic self-reliance, advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and positioning India as a competitive force in global shipping and shipbuilding," the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said in a statement.

According to the ministry, the package introduces a four-pillar approach designed to "strengthen domestic capacity, improve long-term financing, promote greenfield and brownfield shipyard development, enhance technical capabilities and skilling, and implement legal, taxation, and policy reforms to create a robust maritime infrastructure."

PhonePe files for about Rs 12,000 crore IPO

The issue will largely be in the form of OFS

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

US retailer Walmart-owned PhonePe has filed for an Initial Public Offering (IPO), and is expected to raise about Rs 12,000 crore largely through an offer for sale.

In an official statement, PhonePe confirmed that it has filed the pre-filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus with SEBI and the stock exchanges under Chapter IIA of the SEBI ICDR Regulations in relation to the proposed initial public offering of its equity shares on the main board of the stock exchanges.

The company, which has filed draft papers via the confidential pre-filing route, did not disclose details of the IPO's size or timing. However, sources confirmed that it is expected to raise about Rs 11,000 to Rs 12,000 crore.

In February this year, the fintech company started preparations for a public listing on the stock market. Towards the end of 2022, the company moved its domicile from Singapore to India. The fintech company's co-founder and CEO, Sameer Nigam, had informed that they paid Rs 8,000 crore in taxes to shift their domicile.

Last week, PhonePe announced that it received the final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator. The RBI authorisation enables PhonePe to expand its reach and tap into online merchants, with a particular focus on small and medium businesses (SMEs) across the country.

As of August 2025, PhonePe has over 65 core registered users and a digital payments acceptance network spread across over 4.5 crore merchants. PhonePe also processes over 36 crore transactions daily with an annualised total payment value (TPV) of over Rs 150 lakh crore.

PhonePe's portfolio of businesses includes the distribution of financial products (Insurance, Lending, and Wealth) as well as new consumer tech businesses (Pincode - hyperlocal e-commerce and Indus AppStore – localised app store for the Android ecosystem) in the country.

L&T partners BEL for 5th-gen fighter aircraft programme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has formed a strategic partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to support the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme of the Indian Air Force. The consortium will participate in the Expression of Interest notice issued by Government of India's (GoI) Aeronautical Development Agency, by way of submitting a response in the coming weeks.

The partnership will leverage L&T's expertise in developing strategic defence and aerospace platforms, along with BEL's experience in defence electronics and systems, to jointly contribute to India's 5th-generation fighter aircraft.

The collaboration marks a new milestone in advancing India's defence capabilities in line with the government's vision for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. By combining the strengths of the two defence technology providers, the partnership seeks to deliver a cutting-edge, high quality solution, L&T said in a statement.

Reliance Consumer to invest Rs 1,156 crore in Thoothukudi

CHENNAI, DHNS: Home-grown Reliance Consumer Products Limited on Wednesday committed an investment of Rs 1,156 crore to set up an integrated manufacturing facility in the port city of Thoothukudi. This is yet another evidence of Thoothukudi having shaken off its anti-industry image that followed protests bringing the shutters down on the Vedanta-owned Sterlite Copper in 2018.

A memorandum of understanding between RCPL and Guidance, the investment promotion body of the Tamil Nadu government, was signed in the presence of Industries Minister T R B Raaja. The manufacturing facility will come up at the industrial park operated by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) in Allikulam in Thoothukudi district. "This facility will span 60 acres and focus on multi-product manufacturing, from regional snacks to biscuits, spices to atta, edible oil and much more. Over the next 5 years, it will generate 2,000 local jobs," Raaja said.

'Urban India festival spending to touch Rs 2.19 lakh crore in 2025'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The total urban festival spending to touch Rs 2.19 lakh crore in 2025, an 18% increase compared to the last year. Community social media platform LocalCircles in its latest study said the jump in spending is driven by the household group, spending over Rs 20,000 during festive season whose percentage is estimated to rise from 26% in 2024 to 37% in 2025.

It also found that there has been a 115% jump in households that are likely to primarily shop online. Sachin Taparia, founder, chairman and CEO of LocalCircles shared the report in a webinar on 2025 Festive E-Commerce Forecast: Platforms, Trust & Consumer Choice, organised by InGovern Research Services on Wednesday. Taparia said with ongoing discussions around tariff changes, GST slabs, and value-driven purchases, households spending online are looking for platforms that offer not only competitive prices but also trust and consumer protection.

The study found out that about 44% of those shopping online are likely to spend on smartphones and consumer electronics and a similar 44% are likely to spend on home renovation. About 29% of those shopping online are also likely to spend on whitegoods and appliances. Approximately 60% of households shopping online are likely to spend on gourmet foods and groceries as well as festival supplies.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, KAMPLI
Email:apmckampli2023@gmail.com Contact:08394-250232
No.APMC/kampli/Devt/Tender/237/2023-24
Date:23-09-2025.
E-Tender Notification
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Kampli invites E-tender Work sanction under the Market Development Fund By Agricultural Marketing Board for Development Works. Registered Contractor under the Department of Public Works and Inland Water Transport under KPPP System Through Standard Tender Document-KW4 (With Latest Amendment) Item wise two cover are invited separately through e-procurement. For more details Contact the Office in office hours or visit Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Work INDENT NO: APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT710. **Tender Amount Rs. In Rs:** 1,17,29,990-51+ GST.
Time Schedule:1.Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **Date:30.09.2025, 3-00 pm.**2.Last Date for submission the Tender documents: **Date:16.10.2025, 4-00 pm.** 3.Opening of Technical Bid: **Date:17.10.2025 4-30 pm.** 4.Opening of Financial Bid: **Date:30.10.2025 11-00 am.**
Sd/- Secretary APMC. Kampli
Sd/- President APMC. Kampli
DIPR/Ballari/477/KSMCA/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MALUR, KOLAR DISTRICT, KOLAR
Maharaja circle Malur-563130
E-mail: ka.malur.tmc@gmail.com, phone:08151-232238
Letter No:TMC/AE/E-Proc/CR/08/2025-26
Date:22.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(as per the conditions of the Standarad Tender Document E-Procuement Tender Notification)
Constructions of Roads Work in Malur CMC item rate is invited in two bid cover system through E-Procurement Portal. For more details visit KPPP PORTAL The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through e-procurement only. **(1) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36685CALL-2- RS.997.00 Lakhs. (2) DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT36684CALL-2- Rs. 997.00 Lakhs**
Sd/- President CMC, Malur
Sd/- Vice president CMC, Malur
Sd/- Standing committee President CMC, Malur
Sd/- Commissioner CMC, Malur
DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.289/KSMC&A/2025-26

(RULE 8(1) & (III) of ORDER XIX, S.C.R. 2013)
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CIVIL APPEAL NO. 4838 OF 2016 ARISING OUT OF CIVIL APPEAL No(s) 4823-4840 OF 2016
(Appeal by Special Leave granted by this Court's Order dated the **25th April, 2016** in Petition for SLP(C) No. 012231-12248/2016 from the Judgment and Order dated the **08th December, 2015** of the **High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru,** KARNATAKA in **WP** No. **23953** of 2015, **WP** No. **25237** of **2015**, **WP** No. **25419 of 2015, WP** No. **25422** of **2015, WP** No. **25499** of **2015, WP** No. **25536** of **2015, WP** No. **25559** of **2015, WP** No. **25560** of **2015, WP** No. **25561** of **2015**, **WP** No. **25562** of **2015**, **WP** No. **25782** of **2015**, **WP** No. **25786** of **2015**, **WP** No. **25788** of **2015**, **WP** No. **26349** of **2015**, **WP** No. **27214** of **2015**, **WP** No. **28359** of **2015**, **WP** No. **29033** of **2015**, **WP** No. **29036** of **2015**)
THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND ETC. ETC. ... Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)
VERSUS
R. PRAVEEN CHANDRA AND ETC. ETC. ... Respondent(s)
SMT. K.M PARVATHAMMA, W/O LATE SHRI K.M. RUDRAIAH AGED ABOUT 75 YEARS R/O "SHREE PRABHU NILAYA" XVIII/35, LINK ROAD, PARVATHINGAR, BELLARY-583103, KARNATAKA **PID: 221541/2025 IN C.A. NO.4823-4840/2016 (SEC IV-A)**
TAKE NOTICE that the Appellant above-named has on the **17th March, 2016** filed in the Registry of the Supreme Court, Petition for SLP(C) No. 012231-12248/2016 from the Judgment and Order of the High Court above mentioned and pursuant to this Court's order dated granting Special Leave to Appeal the case has been registered as **CIVIL APPEAL** No. **4823-4840 of 2016.**
NOTICE IS HEREBY given to you that if you wish to contest the appeal, you may appear before this Court within thirty days of the receipt of this Notice either in person or by an Advocate-on-Record of this Court appointed by you in that behalf and take such part in the proceedings as you may be advised.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the instant Appeal is directed to tag with **C.A. No. 3974-4068/2016** entitled **"STATE OF KARNATAKA AND ANR. ETC. ETC. vs NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. ETC. ETC."**
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT in default of your appearance within the time prescribed, the appeal will be proceeded with and determined in your absence and no further notice in relation thereto shall be given to you.
Dated:**15th September, 2025**
By order of the Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
DIPR/CP/JA/2961/2025-26

N.W.K.R.T.C., GADAG DIVISION, GADAG
No/NWKT/GDG/TR/COMR/1802/24-25
Date : 24-09-2025
e-TENDER Notification No:08/2025
(Through KPP Portal Only)
Inviting e-Tender applications to Commercial Establishments coming under the jurisdiction of NWKRTC, Gadag Division.
Interested parties may participate in the in the tender through e-procurement portal "http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal-home" within stipulated date and time as mentioned. For more details contact phone no : **7760991802, 9986802447, 7026047644**.
Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject/recall the tender without giving information to tender in the view of Corporation Good Will.
Sd/- Divisional Controller NWKRTC, Gadag Division, Gadag
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/301/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No-2 Babaleshwar- 586 113.
Phone: 08355-200030
E-mail ID: eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
No: KBJNL/MLID-2/PB-2/Head Work O&M/2025-26/855
Date:19.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, under signed invites two cover system tenders **on percentage basis** from eligibleCEIG Class-I Electrical contractors for AME of Headwork for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27, amounting from **Rs.62.76 to 210.32 Lakhs**.
General Category-1] KBJNL/2025-26/HL/WORK_INDENT1809, 2] KBJNL/2025-26/HL/WORK_INDENT1810 & **3]**KBJNL/2025-26/HL/WORK_INDENT1811
Issue and submission of e-tender documents
1. Eligible Contractors will be admitted through e-tender from**22.09.2025 to 30.09.2025 at 5PM.**
2. Last date for receipt of tenders **30.09.2025** up to **5.00 PM.**
3. A pre-bid conference will held on **25.09.2025** at **11.00AM** at this office.
4. The bidders should submit their queries if any for clarifications on or before **26.09.2025** up **5.00 PM** positively through following e-mail id-eemli2babaleshwar@gmail.com
5. e-tender will be opened in this office **on 03.10.2025** at **11.00 AM.**
For further information and details,visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and KBJNL website www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the under signed during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division-2, Babaleshwar
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/357/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009. Ph : 080-22273511-16.
Notification No. KHB/CE/AEF/S&S/Lingapura/KHB/2025-26/SE0311 Dated:22.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Karnataka Housing Board has invited tender through KPP Portal for appointment of Architectural Engineering Firm (AEF) for the work of Proposed Development of sites and services scheme at Suryanagar 2nd phase extension at Lingapura village Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban.
Last Date for Submission of Bid is on : 08.10.2025 Up to 4.00 PM
For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, **Telephone No. 080-22273511 website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2954/Zen/2025-26

FORM G
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR STERNE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED OPERATING IN E-COMMERCE (ONLINE B2B) INDUSTRY HAVING PAN INDIA OPERATIONS
(Under Regulation 36A(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)
RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1.	Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN & CIN No.	Sterne India Private Limited PAN: AAXCS7393C CIN: U74999KA2016PTC097331
2.	Address of the registered office	05th Floor, Salarpuria Sattva Eminence, Amani Bellendur Khane, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk , Bellandur, Bengaluru- 560103
3.	URL of website	NA
4.	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	•The Company had its Registered and Principal Business Office in Bengaluru. •Refer to the detailed Invitation to Expression of Invitation (IEOI) document for additional information.
5.	Installed capacity of main products/ services	NA
6.	Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	Refer to the detailed Invitation to Expression of Invitation (IEOI) document for additional information.
7.	Number of employees/ workmen	No employees
8.	Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL:	https://www.excedor.com/sterne-india-private-limited/
9.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at URL:	https://www.excedor.com/sterne-india-private-limited/
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	10th October 2025
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	20th October 2025
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	25th October 2025
13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	04th November 2025
14.	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	09th November 2025
15.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	09th December 2025
16.	Process email id to submit Expression of Interest	sterneindia.cirp@gmail.com

Notes: 1. The Committee of Creditors of the Corporate Debtor resolved to replace the Interim Resolution Professional Beleyur Resolutions Private Limited in the meeting held on 14th June 2025, in accordance with Section 22(3) of IBC, 2016. Accordingly, an application was filed, and Hon'ble NCLT, vide its order dated 22nd July 2025 (Order uploaded on 28th July 2025), replaced the Interim Resolution Professional and appointed Insolvency Professional Mr. Prakash V. Kukreja ("RP") as the Resolution Professional. 2. The Resolution Professional ("RP") / Committee of Creditors ("COC") shall have discretion to change the criteria for the EOI at any point of time. 3. The RP / COC reserves the right to cancel or modify the process / application without assigning any reason and without any liability whatsoever. 4. The initial 180-day CIRP period is scheduled to conclude on 23rd November 2025. The RP, post seeking CoC approval, may approach the Hon'ble NCLT seeking an extension in the CIRP Period, and the aforesaid timelines shall remain subject to the approval of such extension by the Hon'ble NCLT.
Sd/-
Mr. Prakash V Kukreja
Date: 25th September 2025
Place: Mumbai
Resolution Professional for Sterne India Private Limited
IP Reg No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P02599/2021-2022/13990
Process Email Id: sterneindia.cirp@gmail.com
Process Specific Website: https://www.excedor.com/sterne-india-private-limited/

A painting of the Mysuru Dasara Jambusavari.

The long life of the Dasara fair

Once a showcase of cattle and crops, the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition blends heritage with modernity today, writes T R Sathish Kumar

A display by the Department of Kannada and Culture to showcase Karnataka's language and history. DH PHOTO BY ANUP RAGH T

When the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition first took place in 1888, bullock carts were the primary mode of transport. Today, while visitors arrive in modern vehicles, the exhibition remains a key feature of the Mysuru Dasara celebrations. The exhibition spans 90 days, which, in itself, is evidence of its popularity.

The origins of the tradition were in 1888. Under the directive of Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar X, an exhibition was launched to showcase the agricultural and industrial advancements of the Mysore state.

During the reign of Chamarajendra Wadiyar, the kingdom experienced a notable rise in agricultural prosperity. Although the cultivated area expanded by 51% between 1881 and 1894, revenue rose by only 33%, meaning that by 1894, individual farmers held more land yet paid proportionately less. The Dasara Exhibition was held in 1888, as the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at the place where the Oval Grounds exist now, a part of Gordon Park. It was inaugurated by the Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar on October 16, 1888.

A temporary fort-like structure was erected for the exhibition enclosure. Industrialists, farmers and traders were provided free and comfortable accommodation, security and free transportation to shift back unsold items to their respective places.

The exhibition featured seven categories: Livestock ; agricultural produce; machinery and tools; a ploughing competition; fine arts; industrial crafts; and foliage plants.

Besides, the Maharaja lent paintings, decorative furniture, mirrors, sculptures, boxes, containers, and antique jewels from the palace to add to the attractions. The exhibition also gave an opportunity to the members of the Representative Assembly, as well as to the visitors, to compare the agricultural capabilities of their respective taluk with those of other places.

It also provided an avenue to acquire information on the success that had been attained in various parts of the kingdom in improving cattle breeds and advancements in agricultural machinery.

A view of the entrance to the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition from 2018. DH PHOTO

From the pages of history

The description of Mysuru Dasara Exhibition of 1935 by historian M Shama Rao in his book 'Modern Mysore' (1868-1936), explains its purpose, significance and utility: The Mysuru Dasara Exhibition of 1935 was managed by a special committee of S P Rajagopalachar, member of the State Council, acting as chairman, and S G Sastry, as secretary. The exhibits were arranged to provide a panoramic view of the progress made by the Mysuru kingdom in arts and industries.

A crowd of more than one lakh visited the exhibition. Useful castings made at Mysore Iron Works, now the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, Bhadravathi, fine sugar from Mandya Sugar Factory, Mysuru sandal oil, fabrics from Silk Weaving Factory, modern ploughs and spraying machines from Central Industrial Workshop, medicinal products from the Industrial and Testing Laboratory (ITL), artistic furniture from Chamarajendra Technical Institute and toys from Channapatna Industrial School and products of Mysore Soap Factory were major attractions.

Communication channels

The Dasara exhibition in 1935 also provides an indication of the kinds of communication channels that existed at the time.

For instance, the exhibition also featured the role that the British Indian Postal Department played in connecting people, under the guidance of G V Bewoor, director general of posts and telegraphs. The postal department displayed a model that explained how mail was handled between Mysuru and Munnar — carried by bus, rail, bullock-cart, ropeway and finally by runner.

Old and current stamps were also on display. A film on the work of the post office was also projected on a Kodascope. An interesting development during the time period was the Neopost Franking Machine, which could be used by businesses to print postage directly onto the mail, replacing adhesive stamps.

Three kinds of telephone exchanges, consisting of an automatic, central battery system and repeater, had been set up.

The contributions of the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science, under the guidance of its Director Sir C V Raman, to science were also exhibited.

Fire brigade

In 1907, the exhibition was moved to Saraswathipuram, to the site where the Fire Brigade now stands, with permanent buildings, coinciding with King George V's visit to India.

It remained there until 1920. In 1927, the exhibition was revived and relocated closer to Mysuru Palace, to the grounds behind Mysuru Medical College (MMC), which had been established in 1924.

A well-planned building with 400 permanent stalls was constructed in 1936. As the site became congested, the diagonally opposite Jeevarayana Katte (JK) grounds were added in 1949 to accommodate more stalls and visitors. From this period, cultural events also became a regular feature of the exhibition.

In 1977, the Mysuru Dasara Exhibition shifted to the southern portion of Doddakere Maidan, now the venue popularly known as the Dasara Exhibition Grounds. Since then, MMC has maintained ownership of both the Dasara Exhibition Building and the JK Grounds at Sheshadri Iyer Road and Irwin Road Junction, near the Railway Station.

At present, Mysuru Dasara Exhibition has evolved into a platform that provides information, education and entertainment. While various government departments put up stalls to publicise their schemes, programmes and achievements, an amusement park has also been set up for recreation.

Recently, the exhibition has also provided local talent a platform. Music and dance artistes are provided a chance to at the P Kalingarao Rangamadira and the B V Karanth Rangamanidra. This year, the infrastructure has been modelled after the Hoysala temples in Halebidu. Musical fountains have also been installed with innovative lighting.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A village written in stone

Tucked in Magadi taluk, Kempasagara holds relics of Kempe Gowda's era still visible today, writes Kirti Malhotra

Listening to Dr G Ramakrishna, a renowned scholar, thinker, and writer, has always been engrossing. Recently, I learnt that he hails from Kempasagara in Magadi taluk, Bengaluru district. He fondly recalled studying under the roofs of Dodda matha, playing in the tank bed when it was dry, and walking all the way from Kempasagara village to Magadi town for higher classes. When he mentioned the presence of inscriptions in his village, I decided to pay a visit.

While reading through the *Epigraphia Carnatica Volume IX* (EC9), published in 1905, I found a reference to an inscription dated 1674 AD. It was recorded as being, "on a stone south of the Basavanna temple in the village of Kempasagara under Satanur Hobli." The inscription mentions the original name of the village as 'Heraliganahalli Ambograma', later renamed 'Mummadi Kempasagara'.

I also came across a Class 7 Social Science textbook, which stated that Kempe Gowda III (1641-1674 CE) constructed the Kempasagara tank to tackle drought. The *Mysore Archaeological Survey (MAS)* report for 1914-1915, while providing additional details about Kempasagara, also refers to the same inscription.

On a cloudy morning, I boarded a KSRTC bus and alighted at Magadi and walked to Kempasagara.

In the sleepy village, I enquired about the Lingayat matha mentioned in the *MAS* report as "said to have been built by Kempe Gowda." Putta Ramaiah Venkapannavar, a local resident, guided me to the matha, locally known as Dodda matha. Facing west, it features finely sculpted pillars and a beautiful Nandi-mantapa in front. On one of the pillars, I located the "figure of Kempe Gowda" as described in the *MAS* report.

A short distance away stood the Basavanna temple. Behind it, amid discarded materials, I found a five-foot-tall inscription with 38 lines — the very one mentioned in *EC9*. This inscription refers to the village as *Heraliganahalli ambograma* and Mummadi Kempasagara. This is a *dharma shaasana*, or a record of the gift of land to Brahmins.

Nearby was another structure called the Jangama matha, or known locally as Chikka matha. Though now in ruins, this multi-pillared matha still displays fine sculptures, most of them hidden under heavy layers of paint. The Shaivite *dwarapalakas* at the doorway remain identifiable despite the thick coating.

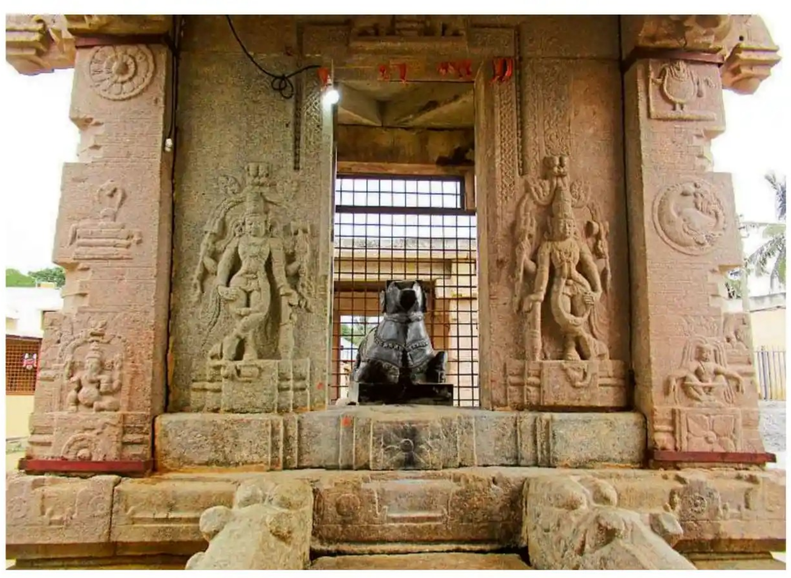
Walking along the bund of the Kempasagara kere towards its far end, I noted the three sluices described in the *MAS* report. Only the first sluice retains its *mantapa*. The lake itself is large and striking, with the Kugina Kallu hill forming a scenic eastern boundary.

From a distance, I noticed a tall stone slab at the end of the bund. On closer inspection, it turned out to be another inscription. Upon enquiry, I learned that this was in the village of Halasettihalli. It was, in fact, inscription *Magadi 30* of *EC9*, which records that Yalahanka Nad Prabhu Mummadi Kempe Gaudayya renamed 'Horaliganahalli' in 'Magadi Hobli' as 'Mummadi Kempasagara', in connection with the land gift for the tank.

What intrigued me most was the carved imagery beneath the inscription. The lower register depicts a man holding the tail of a tiger in his right hand, while the upper register shows a bullock cart in top view, with what seems to be the head of an attacking tiger in front. I thought about the connection between these images and the land grant for the *kere*. Could it be that someone driving a bullock cart lost his life during the construction of the tank while fighting a tiger?

As I went to fetch water from the lake to clean the *shaasana*, my eyes fell upon a mud-covered top slab of the weir. When I instinctively cleared the surface, the year "1891" emerged, etched into the stone.

The bund path eventually leads to Huthri Betta village and further down to Santhepete. On my return, I observed the uneven, narrow bund and was reminded of a 1897 report in the State Archives, which recorded the need to widen the Kempasagara bund "for the convenience of carts and men going to Hutridrug sante." Remarkably, after 128 years, the bund remains the same narrow, muddy stretch.



The Nandi mantapa in the Dodda Matha at Kempasagar in Magadi taluk. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

The vanishing art of 'akki mudi'

Once central to coastal Karnataka's granaries, this age-old method of preserving rice with dry grass is fading in the era of plastic and convenience, writes Surendra Pai

In the days of yore, farmers used unique techniques to preserve harvested paddy and grains. These time-tested methods, developed using locally available materials, helped protect the grains from pests and moisture.

In coastal Karnataka, farmers traditionally preserved paddy in barns using dry grass. This method is known as *akki mudi.* The traditional method of preservation involves tightly wrapping rice in straw to create a sealed, natural container that can preserve grains for years, sometimes up to 40 kg in a single *mudi.*

Akki mudi was widely practised in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada and Udupi.

Since rice is the staple food of the coastal population, vast paddy fields were cultivated across these regions. In earlier times, when modern devices were unavailable, clay pots, wooden containers, and rugs made of grass were most commonly used for storage for rice and paddy, respectively. Once the harvested crops were threshed and the paddy separated, the pile of paddy was wrapped in *baihullu* (a type of dry grass) to form the *akki mudi.*

The methodology

Ropes woven from *baihullu*, either long ropes or small strands, play a crucial role in the process. A spade made from the tamarind tree is also important as it is used to bring the *akki mudi* into a circular shape. When struck from all sides with such a spade, the straw compresses tightly and creates a vacuum, allowing the stored paddy to be preserved for years without spoilage.

The collected pile of paddy is tied with the *baihullu* rope into a neat, circular bundle. The tip of the circular bundle is tied with a short rope, and then filled with one measure of rice, known as a *kalsa*, in layers. One *kalsa* equals 14 *seru (a traditional unit of measurement used across India)*.

After one kalsa is filled, the container is tied with the baihullu rope. Once three kalsas are filled, the container is fastened together with a single knot of baihullu. One akki mudi contains 42 seru of rice. Three straw ropes are tied around the middle of the bundle.

Powdered straw is then sprinkled on the top. At an angle of about 23.5 degrees from bottom to top, around sixteen strands of straw are pulled and tied to strengthen the structure. This is not an ordinary skill and requires great effort, patience and craftsmanship.

It is said that one who completes an *akki mudi* without leaving a single strand of *baihullu* loose is the most skilled artisan of all. As Davayya, an *akki mudi* artisan, recalls, in earlier times, the wealth and prosperity of a family were often measured by the size and number of *akki mudi* in the household courtyard.

Continuing legacy

Even today, *akki mudi* is offered by devotees to the deity during fairs and the *paryaya* at Udupi Krishna Matha. It is also offered during the Brahmakalashotsava celebrations in many coastal temples.

Unfortunately, this skilled art of creating storage containers is slowly disappearing. The widespread use of gunny bags and plastic containers, and the decline in demand for such craftsmanship are some factors that have forced many skilled workers to abandon the practice and seek other livelihoods.

The era of plastic has contributed to the decline of other agricultural practices such as *baihullu* weaving, all of which were once in harmony with nature.

An artisan twists grass into circular ropes; the dry grass being shaped into a storage container. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Vaibhav Suryavanshi

Suryavanshi, Mhatre 70s power India U-19

BRISBANE, PTI: Vaibhav Suryavanshi made a breezy fifty and skipper Ayush Mhatre grabbed three wickets with his part-time off-spin as India U-19 defeated Australia U-19 by 51 runs in the second Youth ODI here on Wednesday.

The victory helped India take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series and the final game will be played on Friday at the Ian Healy Oval here.

Middle-order batter Jayden Draper made a 72-ball 102 for the Aussies but they could only manage 249 all out in 47.2 overs, chasing the strong target of 301 that India set.

Suryavanshi (70 off 68 balls) laid the foundation for India's charge after his fellow opener Mhatre fell for a two-ball duck.

The teen batting sensation and Vihaan Malhotra (70, 74b) added 117 runs for the second wicket to bring India back on track but the dismissal of Suryavanshi robbed India of the momentum.

Wicketkeeper Abhigyan Kundu (71, 64b) kept the board ticking with small yet critical partnerships with late-order batters as India made 300 before getting all out in 49.4 overs.

Australia's chase looked in good shape once they reached 63 for 1 in 18.5 overs. But off-spinner Kanishk Chouhan dismissed Steve Hogan to trigger a mini collapse.

The home side lost two more wickets at the score of 63 — Alex Turner and Yash Deshmukh — to slip to 63 for four.

It soon became 109 for six as the Aussies stared at a rout. But Draper and Aryan Sharma (38) added 112 runs for the seventh wicket to keep the fight on for Australia.

Brief scores: India U-19: 300 all out in 49.4 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 70, Vihan Malhotra 70, Vedant Trivedi 26, Abhigyan Kundu 71; Will Bryom 3-71, Yash Deshmukh 2-31) bt Australia U-19: 249 all out in 47.2 overs (Jayden Draper 107, Aryan Sharma 38; Kanishk Chouhan 2-50, Ayush Mhatre 3-27) by 51 runs.
Series: India lead 3-match series 2-0.
Third Youth ODI: Sept 26 (Ian Healy Oval).

IN BRIEF

Pritam wins title at BGC

▸ Pritam Haridass totalled 137 to win the open gross category title in the Bangalore Golf Club Centenary Open Amateur Golf Championship, reports DHNS.
Results: Open (Gross): 137: Pritam Haridass (68, 69); **139:** Dilip M (72, 67).
Open team: 285: Dilip M, Behanth Gowda; **287:** Rahul Ravi, Shashi.
Handicap 0-9 (Nett): 137: Zubaer Ahmed (65, 72); **138:** Naveen Wahi (68, 70).
10-18: 132: Mithun Prasad (65, 67); **134:** Shankar Gopal (66, 68).
19-24: 138: Murali M Raghuram (65, 73); **139:** Umesh KS (69, 70).
Ladies: Gross: 158: Saanvi B Reddy (80, 78). **Nett: 134:** Karishma Tandon (66, 68).
Seniors 65+: Gross: 149: Ranganath VT (77, 72); **140:** Suresh KS (72, 68).

Indians retain top spots

▸ The Indian trio of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and aggressive opener Abhishek Sharma retained their respective top positions in the ICC T20 rankings, released on Wednesday, reports PTI from Dubai.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Asia Cup (Super 4s): Pakistan vs Bangladesh **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1, Sony Liv.**

FOOTBALL

Europa League: Go Ahead Eagles vs FCSB, LOSC vs Brann **(both 10:15 pm)**, Ferencvaros vs Viktoria Plzen, RB Salzburg vs Porto, VfB Stuttgart vs Celta Vigo, Utrecht vs Lyon, Rangers vs Genk, Aston Villa vs Bologna, Young Boys vs Panathinaikos **(all 12:30 am, Friday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP

India storm their way into final

Error-prone Surya & Co still prove too good for Bangladesh

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Abhishek Sharma apart, India were largely below par with the bat the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday night. Abhishek included, they were decidedly shoddy in the field. Yet, even an error-prone India were too strong for Bangladesh, racing to a 41-run victory in the Super Fours of the T20 Asia Cup to guarantee their place in Sunday's final.

Perhaps believing that they hadn't been pushed enough in this tournament, India decided to challenge themselves. From 112 for two in 11 overs on the back of Abhishek second straight half-century, they managed only 56 runs in the last nine overs on being asked to bat by Jaker Ali, limping to 168 for six when several more appeared there for the taking.

Then, they dropped Saif Hassan, the opener, four times in an extension of their horror show against Pakistan on Sunday, but their superior bowling firepower bailed them out with Jasprit Bumrah showing a welcome return to wicket-taking ways and Kuldeep Yadav reiterating his value to the side.

Saif, who was otherwise pleasing during a career-best 69, waged a lone battle as the rest floundered around him. His 69 might have been chancy but when he struck the ball, he did so crisply. Axar Patel suffered the most at his hands, going for four sixes, but the left-arm spinner was the one who finally caught him at long-on after Saif had been dropped by Axar himself on his follow through, Hardik Pandya, Sanju Samson and Abhishek.

Bumrah finished with two wickets, including the scalp of Tanzid Hasan in his first over, while Kuldeep mesmerised and bamboozled Bangladesh, who seemed to miss skipper Litton Das, out with a back injury, and were bowled out for 127 in the final over.

Bangladesh might have been the happier of the sides at the interval even though India's tally was a formidable one, made even more so by the quality of their bowling, a sluggish outfield and a slightly two-paced pitch that initially asked questions of Abhishek and Shubman Gill. Fresh off adding 105 against Pakistan, the openers took their time assessing the conditions. Consequently, only 17 came of the first three overs but once Gill drove left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed for four and followed it up with a six, the floodgates opened.

Taking a cue from his partner, Abhishek opened out to quickly catch up with Gill and then leave him behind with a flurry of boundaries that took him to fifty off 25 deliveries. By then, Gill had fallen to leggie Rishad Hossain, who added the promoted Shivam Dube's wicket in his next over. But it wasn't until Abhishek was run out following a mix-up with Suryakumar Yadav, his ball-watching captain, that India's innings hit a definitive roadblock.

Abhishek's brilliance had made a mockery of the pitch but in the second half, as the ball got older and slightly softer, there was no great joy for the batters. If India managed a semblance of respectability, that was largely because Pandya weighed in with 38, providing the impetus that those around him had failed to inject after Abhishek's unfortunate dismissal. Suryakumar's poor run continued as he was caught down leg for five, and India's insistence on a left-right combination meant Sanju Samson, who batted at No. 3 against UAE a few nights back, wasn't pencilled in before No. 8.

Rishad was the pick of the Bangladeshi bowlers while Saif's tidy off-spin went for only seven in two overs. There was, however, no stopping India, stumbles and fumbles notwithstanding.

India opener Abhishek Sharma smashes one to the boundary during his 37-ball 75 against Bangladesh in their Super4 game in Dubai on Wednesday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek (run out)	75 (37b, 6x4, 5x6)
Gill c Tanzim b Rishad	29 (19b, 2x4, 1x6)
Dube c Hridoy b Rishad	2 (3b)
Suryakumar c Jaker b Mustafizur	5 (11b)
Pandya c Tanzid b Saifuddin	38 (29b, 4x4, 1x6)
Tilak c Saif b Ranzim	5 (7b)
Axar (not out)	10 (15b)
Extras (LB-1, W-2, NB-1)	4
Total (for 6 wkts, 20 overs)	**168**

Fall of wickets: 1-77 (Gill), 2-83 (Dube), 3-112 (Abhishek), 4-114 (Suryakumar), 5-129 (Tilak), 6-168 (Pandya).

Bowling: Tanzim 4-0-29-1 (w-1, nb-1), Nasum 4-0-34-0, Mustafizur 4-0-33-1, Saifuddin 3-0-37-1, Rishad 3-0-27-2 (w-1), Saif 2-0-7-0.

BANGLADESH

Saif c Axar b Bumrah	69 (51b, 3x4, 5x6)
Tanzid c Dube b Bumrah	1 (3b)
Emon c Abhishek b Kuldeep	21 (19b, 2x4, 1x6)
Hridoy c Abhishek b Axar	7 (10b)
Shamim b Chakravarthy	0 (3b)
Jaker (run out)	4 (5b)
Saifuddin c Tilak b Varun	4 (7b)
Rishad c Tilak b Kuldeep	2 (3b)
Tanzim b Kuldeep	0 (1b)
Nasum (not out)	4 (4b)
Mustafizur c Axar b Tilak	6 (11b, 1x4)
Extras (W-9)	9
Total (all out, 19.3 overs)	**127**

Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Tanzid), 2-46 (Emon), 3-65 (Hridoy), 4-74 (Shamim), 5-87 (Jaker), 6-109 (Saifuddin), 7-112 (Rishad), 8-112 (Tanzim), 9-116 (Saif), 10-127 (Mustafizur).

Bowling: Pandya 2-0-14-0, Bumrah 4-0-18-2 (w-5), Chakravarthy 4-0-29-2, Kuldeep 4-0-18-3 (w-1), Axar 4-0-37-1, Dube 1-0-10-0 (w-3), Tilak 0.3-0-1-1.

Result: India won by 41 runs.
PoM: Abhishek Sharma.
Next match: vs Sri Lanka, Sept 26.

Prasidh Krishna

Prasidh retires hurt as Aus A take 242-run lead

LUCKNOW, PTI: Pacer Prasidh Krishna was forced to leave the field after a blow on his helmet led to concussion while batting for India A against Australia A on day 2 of the second unofficial Test here on Wednesday.

Prasidh was hit on his helmet during the 39th over of the innings by Australian pacer Henry Thornton, and he was subjected to concussion test immediately by the team medical staff as per the protocol.

The Karnataka bowler continued to bat after the test but he left the field after three overs, cutting short a promising eighth wicket partnership with B Sai Sudharsan.

Vidarbha pacer Yash Thakur came in as concussion substitute for Prasidh.

"He looks fine at the moment. We are monitoring him and a decision will be taken tomorrow," a team source told PTI.

Brief scores: Australia A (O/n: 350/9): 420 all out in 97.2 overs (Sam Konstas 49, Nathan McSweeney 74, Jack Edwards 88, Oliver Peake 29, Josh Philippe 39, Todd Murphy 76, Henry Thornton 32; Manav Suthar 5-107, Gurnoor Brar 3-75) and 16/3 in 7.5 overs vs India A: 194 all out in 52.5 overs (N Jagadeesan 38, Sai Sudharsan 75; Henry Thornton 4-36, Todd Murphy 2-48).

PGTI's show cause notices to 17 golfers playing IGPL

NEW DELHI, PTI: PGTI CEO Amandeep Johl on Wednesday said 17 golfers, including the seasoned Gaganjeet Bhullar, have been issued show cause notices which the players described as "provisional suspension" for participating in the Yuvraj Singh-backed Indian Golf Premier League.

A final decision on the matter will be taken after a disciplinary committee meeting on September 27. Olympian and Asian Tour winner Bhullar, Aman Raj, Harendra Gupta, Karandeep Kochhar and Sachin Baisoya are among the players who have been hit by the action for featuring in the IGPL at Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida, from September 17–19.

It clashed with PGTI's Chennai Open, which has become a point of contention. Johl maintained that PGTI had no objection to members playing in outside events, provided they do not clash with its calendar.

"If it's outside our calendar, no problem. Go and play. But when it clashes with our events, it's different. What do we tell our sponsors?" Johl asked in an interaction with PTI.

"That's why we said: don't play these tournaments during our weeks. But their response is, 'We'll play whenever we like.'"

Afridi plays down SKY remarks on rivalry

DUBAI, PTI: Pakistan pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi steered clear of giving a direct response to Suryakumar Yadav's view that Indo-Pak games should not be considered a rivalry anymore due to India's dominance and insisted that his team's focus is on winning the Asia Cup.

Addressing the pre-match press conference ahead of their must-win last Super 4 game against Bangladesh here on Thursday, Afridi side-stepped queries on Suryakumar's assertion.

"That's his view, let him say. When we meet (in the likely Asia Cup final on Sunday), we will see kya hai, kya nahi. Tab dekh lenge. We are here to win the Asia Cup and we will give our best effort for that," Afridi said.

Suryakumar had stated that for a rivalry to be considered genuine, the gulf in results cannot be 12-3, which is where the India-Pakistan T20I head-to-head currently stands.

The two teams have played each other twice in the ongoing tournament and India have emerged comprehensive victors both times.

Shaheen Shah Afridi

PAK VS BANGLA
LIVE 8PM, SONY SPORTS NETWORK

But the tensions between the two sides are running high after the Indian team refused to perform traditional handshakes before and after the games to show solidarity with victims of the Pahalgam terror attack in which Pakistan-backed terrorists were involved.

The matches have been marred by Pakistani players' aggressive gestures towards fans as well as rival players and Afridi was asked if the aggression had been planned by the likes of Haris Rauf and Sahibzada Farhan.

While Rauf seemingly mocked Indian fans, Farhan's provocative gun-firing celebration also caused a stir during their Super 4 game on Sunday.

"There is no specific plan to be aggressive, we have always been aggressive, from the time we started playing. This is how cricket is played and the team morale is kept high," he said.

Asked if the team is even discussing the possible Indo-Pak match-up in the final, he said, "We are not in the final yet, when we reach, we will think about it."

When quizzed about "what's been going on" between the two teams, Afridi first responded with a cheeky, "Kya chal raha hai?"

Ashwin to join Sydney Thunder

SYDNEY, PTI: Seasoned off-spinner R Ashwin is set to join Sydney Thunder for the upcoming Big Bash League season, becoming the first high-profile Indian cricketer to feature in the competition.

The 39-year-old, who recently retired from international cricket as well as the Indian Premier League, "is understood to have committed to the Thunder," 'Fox Sports' reported.

The franchise is expected to make an official announcement later this week.

Ashwin has also entered the ILT20 auction, and following its conclusion on January 4, he is expected to join the Thunder for the latter part of the season, which runs from December 14 to January 18.

Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg had personally reached out to Ashwin earlier this month to explore the possibility of his BBL participation.

Henderson most expensive HIL buy

NEW DELHI, PTI

Liam Henderson emerged as the costliest player at the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) men's mini auction with Vedanta Kalinga Lancers securing the services of the Australian defender for Rs 42 lakh while Vivek Lakra and Adrohit Ekka stole the spotlight among the young Indian talents, here on Wednesday.

Among the international signings, Dutch defender Sander de Wijn triggered a bidding war before Tamil Nadu Dragons secured him for Rs 36 lakh, while Germany's Thies Prinz was snapped up by the HIL Governing Council, which has taken charge of UP Rudras, for the same amount.

Among the Indians, teenage goalkeeper Lakra turned heads when his price soared from a base of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 23 lakh, with Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers eventually signing him.

Liam Henderson. X

HIL takes over Rudras

The Hockey India League (HIL) Governing Council has taken over operations of the UP Rudras franchise, which withdrew from the 2026 season citing financial challenges, to ensure that the players' participation in the event is not affected.

The Rudras had withdrawn from the league earlier this week.

FC Bengaluru United jump to the top of the table

LOCAL FOOTBALL

BENGALURU, DHNS: FC Bengaluru United jumped to the top of the table after downing HAL FC 2-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Wednesday.

Romario Nazareth opened the scoring in the 15th minute before Junain Kadvalath found the back of the net in the 63rd minute to take FCBU to 13 points from five games, a two point lead over Bengaluru Football Club.

In another fixture, ASC & Centre FC held South United FC 1-1 in a game that sprang to life in the dying moments. After a lacklustre 90 minutes, Makak Mayum Daniyal stroked South United FC ahead in the second minute of injury time that saw the bench go wild.

However, the euphoria lasted only three minutes as Tongbram Krishna Kanta Singh netted the equaliser that saw the ASC camp turn delirious.

Results: ASC & Centre FC: 1 (Tongbram Krishna Kanta Singh 90th+5) drew with South United FC: 1 (Makak Mayum Daniyal 90th+2); FC Bengaluru United: 2 (Romario Nazareth 15th, Junain Kadvalath 63rd) bt HAL FC: 0; Rebels FC: 2 (Nongmeikapam Sanathoi Meitei 46th og, Shail Rashid 80th) bt Roots FC: 0.

FC Bengaluru United's Junain Kadvalath (right) celebrates after scoring against HAL SC on Wednesday.
DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Prannoy retires; Ayush, Kiran get knocked out

SUWON, PTI: HS Prannoy's campaign ended in disappointment as he retired hurt due to an injury while Ayush Shetty also bowed out as India's challenge at the Korea Masters Super 500 concluded on the opening day of the main draw here on Wednesday.

Prannoy, 33, was trailing 5-8 against Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo when he suffered an injury after playing a cross-court smash and clutched his right ribs. After taking a medical timeout, he resumed play but appeared uncomfortable and was forced to retire at 8-16.

Ayush Shetty, the only Indian to claim a BWF title this season at the US Open Super 300, was outplayed by Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang 18-21, 18-21 in a 47-minute encounter.

Kiran George put up a spirited fight before succumbing 14-21, 22-20, 14-21 to former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Centurion Nair takes Secretary's XI into final

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karun Nair took KSCA Secretary's XI into the finals of the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament as the right-hander scored 151 not out off 169 balls in a six-wicket win over Goa in Alur on Wednesday.

Coming to bat at No. 4, the seasoned campaigner forged an unbeaten stand of 181 runs for the fifth wicket with Dhruv P (65 n.o.) as Secretary's XI chased down 265 by the 67th over. Nair was the aggressive partner as he scored at a strike rate of 89.35, hitting 12 fours and two sixes after the hosts' top-order came a cropper.

Left-arm off-spinner Darshan Misal (3/106) brought all the trouble with the scalps of Lochan Gowda (13), Faizan Khan (19) and Samit Darvid (3), leaving Secretary's XI stuttering at 85/4 at one stage.

KSCA Secretary's XI's Karun Nair scored 151 not out against Goa in the semifinals of the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament at the KSCA Stadium in Alur on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNA KUMAR PS

Earlier in the morning, Goa tailenders Arjun Tendulkar (38) and Samar Dubashi (31) forged a crucial stand of 64 runs for the ninth wicket to take their side to 202 all out after resuming at 168/8.

Brief scores (semifinals): At Alur 1: Goa: 338 all out & (O/n: 168/8): 202 all out in 66.4 overs (Lalit Yadav 27, Arjun Tendulkar 38, Samar Dubashi 31; Abhishek Ahlawat 5-74, Madhav P Bajaj 3-68, Dhruv P 2-28) lt to KSCA Secretary's XI: 276 all out & 266/4 in 66.4 overs (Karun Nair 151 n.o., Dhruv P 65 n.o.; Darshan Misal 3-106). **At M Chinnaswamy Stadium:** Madhya Pradesh: 425 all out (O/n: 233/1): 411/6 in 120 overs (Harsh Gawli 152, Yash Dubey 76, Harpreet Singh 83, Venkatesh Iyer 38, Shubham S 29; Naveen Kanwar 2-78) drew with Himachal Pradesh: 204 all out.

Rock Bank for main event

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Prasanna Kumar-trained Rock Bank, to be ridden by Neeraj Rawal, has got the best credentials to win in the small field of four runners in the fray for the Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Mysore races to be run over a mile on Thursday. The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Shimsha Plate - 1600M: Double Scotch 1; Striking Eyes 2; My Visionary 3.
2. Sri Kanteerava Narasimharaja Sport Club Trophy (Div II) -- 1400M: Eclipse Pulse 1; Totally Epic 2; Sandal King 3.
3. Ranga Family Cup - 1800M: Small Dreams 1; Freedom Touch 2; Winfield 3.
4. Rajakumari Leelavathi Devi Memorial Trophy - 1600M: Rock Bank 1; Magnetic 2.
5. Sri Kanteerava Narasimharaja Sport Club Trophy (Div I) -1400M: Knotty Affair 1; Windcleaver 2; Adelanto 3.
6. Indhradhanush Plate - 1100M: Knotty In Blue 1; Just Blues 2; Felicita 3.

Day's best: Knotty Affair. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Shooters look to continue good show

NEW DELHI, PTI: Olympian shotgun shooter Raiza Dhillon and Asian junior trap champion Sabeera Haris will lead a 69-member strong Indian contingent in the ISSF Junior World Cup, beginning here on Thursday, with the aim of topping the charts on home soil.

The second and final Junior World Cup of the year, being held at the scenic Karni Singh Ranges in Tughlakabad, will see shooters in the U-21 age category across rifle, pistol and shotgun match their skills against more than 200 shooters from 18 countries, vying for 51 medals across 15 Olympic and two non-Olympic disciplines.

Raiza, the youngest Indian shooter at the 2024 Paris Olympics in 2024, has emerged as one of the top skeet exponents and she would be looking to clinch the top individual position after striking the team gold in the 2021 Junior World Championships in Lima.

The event will kick off on Thursday with men's and women's 50m rifle prone with India fielding five shooters each in both the sections.

In men's 50m rifle prone section, Rohit Kanyan, Kushagra Singh Rajawat, Nitin Waghmare and Deependra Shekhawat will test their skills against some upcoming shooters from Europe and Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) from Russia and Belarus.

Raiza Dhillon

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Isak opens his Liverpool account

Chelsea huff and puff past third-tier side Lincoln

LONDON, AFP

Alexander Isak scored his first Liverpool goal to inspire a 2-1 win against Southampton in the League Cup third round, while Chelsea survived a scare to beat third-tier Lincoln on Tuesday.

Isak was making his third appearance for Liverpool since his British record £125 million ($169 million) move from Newcastle on transfer deadline day.

The 26-year-old got off the mark in the 43rd minute as Southampton goalkeeper Alex McCarthy tried a short pass that was intercepted by Federico Chiesa, who picked out the Sweden striker to fire home.

Isak, who had scored for Newcastle in their League Cup final win against Liverpool last season, was taken off at half-time as he builds up his fitness after missing pre-season training while his transfer was being negotiated.

Shea Charles equalised for the Championship side in the 76th minute with a close-range finish after a wayward header from Liverpool's Wataru Endo.

Arne Slot had made 11 changes from the Everton game but substitute Hugo Ekitike saved Liverpool's understudies from a penalty shoot-out when he finished off Chiesa's pass in the 85th minute.

Meanwhile, Chelsea were in danger of a humiliating exit after boss Enzo Maresca made eight changes following the 2-1 defeat at Manchester United on Saturday.

In their first meeting with Chelsea since 1911, Lincoln took the lead thanks to a Blues blunder in the 42nd minute.

Enzo Fernandez's careless pass inside his own penalty area was intercepted by Ivan Varfolomeev.

Varfolomeev headed on to Rob Street and he guided a composed finish past Filip Jorgensen from 12 yards.

But Tyrique George got them back on track three minutes into the second half with a half-volley that crashed in off the post.

Facundo Buonanotte put Maresca's men in front after 50 minutes to decide the match for Chelsea.

Liverpool's Alexander Isak (centre) celebrates with team-mates after scoring against Southampton in the League Cup on Tuesday night. REUTERS

Mbappe stars in Real romp over Levante

VALENCIA (SPAIN), AFP

Real Madrid extended their winning start to La Liga with a comfortable 4-1 triumph at Levante on Tuesday.

Kylian Mbappe scored twice to reach seven league goals in six matches as Xabi Alonso's side maintained their 100 percent record.

Vinicius Junior opened the scoring with a superb finish and Franco Mastantuono was also on target for the league leaders. Madrid found their second when Vinicius set up Mastantuono, who rifled into the top corner.

Unai Elgezabal clumsily brought down the French superstar in the box and Mbappe cheekily dinked the resulting penalty down the middle for the third. Then two minutes later the forward, released by Arda Guler, rounded Ryan and tapped home his second of the night. Villarreal earned a late 2-1 win at Sevilla to rise to third in the table, above fourth-placed Espanyol who drew 2-2 with Valencia. Bottom side Girona earned a creditable 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao, fifth.

Results: Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Jauregizar 48th) drew with Girona: 1 (Ounahi 9th); Espanyol: 2 (Cabrera 59th, Puado 90+6) drew with Valencia: 2 (Danjuma 15th, Duro 62nd); Levante: 1 (Eyong 54th) lt to Real Madrid: 4 (Vinicius 28th, Mastantuono 38th, Mbappe 64th, 66th); Sevilla: 1 (Sow 51st) lt to Villarreal: 2 (Oluwaseyi 17th, Solomon 86th).

Ministry unveils strong selection criteria for 2026 Asian Games

NEW DELHI, PTI

Athletes with "real chance of winning medals" will be the only ones considered for inclusion, stated the Sports Ministry as it unveiled a stringent selection criteria for the 2026 Asian Games, which focusses on continental rankings and bars additional coaches and support staff even at no cost to government. The five-page document uploaded on the ministry's website on Wednesday makes it clear that only those among the top-six in individual and top-eight in team sports at the Asian level would be eligible for nomination from the national federations.

The Asian Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4 next year.

"The aim is to ensure that the athletes who have real chance of winning medal are only considered for participation in multidisciplinary sports events," stated the ministry, tightening the process that has been criticised for being haphazard and lacking in clarity in the past. "If it comes to notice... that the aim is just for participation and not aiming for excellence (medal winning), names of such sportspersons and teams will not be approved after giving proper justification," it stated.

Triple delight for Bengaluru's Shreya

MYSURU, DHNS

Bengaluru city's Shreya Rajesh won three gold medals, including a meet record, in the athletics events of the CM Cup State-level Dasara Games at the Chamundi Vihar Stadium here on Wednesday.

In the women's 100m hurdles, Shreya clocked 14.31 seconds, breaking Chandrika's previous record of 15.45 seconds. She clocked 24.89 seconds in the 200m race to win gold before helping the women's 4X100m relay team finish atop the podium with a meet record of 48.79 seconds.

A total of six meet records were set on Wednesday, the second day of the Games -- Udupi's Sridevika Shetty in the women's long jump, Bengaluru's T Nivedita in the shot put, and Shivamogga's MS Ashrith in the men's 800m run and Dharwad's Balu Hegri in the 5000m.

Results (Athletics, men): 200m: M.D. Darshan (Shivamoga, 22.07 sec) 1, GC Guruprasad (Mysore) 2, MD Paigamber Goundy (Vijaypur) 3; **800m**: MS Ashrit (Shivamogga, 1:50.71 sec) 1, S Kamala Kannan (Bengaluru) 2, HV Chintan (Bengaluru) 3; **5000m**: Balu Yallappa Hegri (Dharwad, 15:9.86sec) 1, Guruprasad (Bengaluru) 2, Vinayak Rathore (Dharwad) 3; **110m hurdles**: Labek S Nalabanda (Belagavi, 16.25 sec) 1, Ratangowda Patila (Bengaluru) 2, HM Harish (Mysuru) 3. **Long jump**: Purushottam (Bengaluru. 7.37) 1, B Naveen (Bengaluru) 2, Zafar Khan (Belgavi) 3; Shotput: Prajwal Shetty (Udupi, 16.16m) 1, N Ganesh (North Kannada) 2, Ajay Ashok Mujawar (Bengaluru) 3; 4X100 relay: Belagavi (44.08 sec) 1, Bangalore Rural - 2, Kalaburagi -3.
Cycling: 70 km mass start race: Srinivas Rajput (Vijayapura, 1:56 minutes) 1, Yelagurappa Gaddi (Vijayapura) 2, Raju Sonnada (Vijayapura) 3.
Women: 200m: Shreya Rajesh (Bengaluru City, 24.89) 1, Jyothika (Bengaluru) 2, Shravani (Dakshina Kannada) 3; **800m**: Rekha Piroji (South Kannada, 2:15.69) 1, Shilpa Hosamani (Belagavi) 2, Akshara (Belagavi) 3; **100m hurdles**: Shreya Rajesh (Bengaluru City, 14.31) 1, RG Dikshita (South Kannada) 2, Akshata (Udupi) 3; **4X100 relay**: Bangalore City (48.79) 1, Belagavi -2, Kalaburagi -3. **Long jump**: Sridevika Shetty (Udupi. Length: 5.72m)-1, Aishwarya Patila (Udupi)-2, G Monica (Bengaluru) 3; Shotput: T Nivedita (Bengaluru, 14.15m) 1, M Sanjana Reddy (Bengaluru) 2, B Sushma (South Kannada) 3.
Cycling: 30 km race: Gliona Angel D'Souza (Udupi, 1:4.35 sec) 1, Keerthi Nayak (Bagalkot) 2, Kiyana (Bengaluru) 3.

Shreya Rajesh.
DH PHOTO/ ANUP RAGH T

Lakshya, Dhonish steal show

MYSURU, DHNS: Bengaluru's Dhonish emerged the individual champion with 15 points in the men's swimming competition of the Dasara Games here on Wednesday.

In the women's category, Bengaluru's Lakshya Shivanand **(in pic)** and V Hitashi shared the champion's title with 16 points each.

Results (men): 100m freestyle: Dhonish (Bengaluru, 54.28 sec) 1, Anish Kore (Bengaluru) 2, VS Dighanth (DK) 3; **200m freestyle**: Dhonish (1:59.95) 1, Anish Kore (Bengaluru) 2, Darshan Varur (Belagavi) 3; **200m breaststroke**: Saish Kini (Bengaluru, 2:35.85) 1, Surya Joyeppa (Bengaluru) 2, Tanuj Singh (Belagavi) 3.
Women: 100m freestyle: P Charita (Bengaluru, 1:1.87) 1, Thisai Sonar (Bengaluru) 2, GJ Lipika Dev Bengaluru Rural) 3; **200m freestyle**: Thisaiah Sonar (Bengaluru, 2:17.95) 1, P Charita (Bengaluru) 2, GJ Lipika Dev (Bengaluru Rural) 3; **100m backstroke**: KR Shruti (Bengaluru, 1:10.60 sec) 1, Tanmayi Dharmesh (Bengaluru) 2, Veda Vaibhav (Belagavi) 3. **200m breaststroke**: Lakshya Sivananda (Bengaluru, 2:50.28) 1, V Hitashi (Bengaluru) 2, Siddhi Shetty (Dakshina Kannada) 3.

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Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com